



CYCLING LEGEND FLAGS OFF RIDERS IN CHARITY FUNDRAISER



Cycling great Hugh Porter started the charity ride

CYCLING legend Hugh Porter flagged off riders on a charity fundraiser at the Black Country track where he started his illustrious career.

The 76-year-old returned to Halesowen Velodrome, which was built in 1948 and was where he had been taken by his father Joe to watch a cycle race at the age of 10.

Hugh went on to win four world titles in the individual pursuit and is one of Britain's greatest former professional cyclists.

The sportsman did not get into the saddle himself to take part on this occasion.

"I enjoy just having a chat with the people here and giving the riders a bit of encouragement," he said as 140 riders from Halesowen Cycling Club set off from the

velodrome in Manor Way on either a 100 or 50 kilometre ride to raise money for Compton Hospice. Hugh raised £3,800 for the same cause with a ride last October.

It was the third running of the Halesowen 100 and the riders were flagged off in batches of 10. Club coach Paul Barker, who organised the event, said: "I thought it would be good for us to have a non-competitive mass participation ride.

"We raised £2,500 from the first two and hope to collect a further £1,000 this time.

"We have chosen Compton Hospice to be the beneficiary on this occasion because it is a charity close to Hugh's heart."

Club chairman David Viner, who took part in the 50k, explained: "It is a new event

that clashes with several more established ones but we are building it up.

"It is important for the club because it introduces many people to cycling in a group so they can get used to riding in the peloton."

Entrants paid £25 to take part in the 100k and £15 for the 50k.

George Cann, aged 17, from Kingswinford, was among those who completed the longer course that went from Halesowen via Kinver, Droitwich, Stourport and back.

He said: "It makes a nice change and a chance to meet people you have not seen for a while. It is a good ride but not competitive. It was a little further than I would normally go but I thoroughly enjoyed it."

COURT

Man charged after youth football attack

A 52-year-old man has been charged following a violent incident at a children's football match that left a referee injured.

It happened during an under-14s game between Halesowen Town Colts and Halesowen Harriers at Newfield Park, in Halesowen on March 20.

Police confirm that Nahad Yafai, 52, of Parkside Road, Colley Gate, has been charged with wounding with intent.

He has been bailed to appear at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court on September 12.

Referee Oliver Howard was hurt during a game in Stourbridge and District Youth and Girls Football League, while a male spectator, aged 49, was also injured.

FIRE

Bosses promise to rebuild restaurant

BOSSSES of Wall Heath restaurant Hickory's Smokehouse have promised to rebuild the popular eatery, which was gutted by a huge blaze last week.

A spokesman said: "We are definitely going to rebuild, and that is largely because of the overwhelming levels of support we have had from customers and local businesses."

The restaurant opened in November and employs some 65 staff. Bosses aim to relocate staff to other branches.

● 'Distraught' - see page 8

MEMORIAL

Bid to bring back artillery landmark

AN ARTILLERY shell is set to take pride of place at Shell Corner in Halesowen, similar to the original that stood on the island after the First World War.

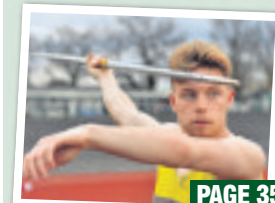
But the proposal has come under fire from Dudley Council who may not allow it to be placed on the original spot at the junction of Long Lane and Nimmings Road, due to signage restrictions.

The shell was a landmark until it vanished in the 1970s and gave its name to the area, previously called the Junction.

Councillor Stuart Henley wants the replica in place in time for Remembrance Sunday.

INSIDE

CLUB IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK



PAGE 35

Objections over modern house proposal at farm OPPOSITION TO GREENBELT PLAN

PLANS for a house to be built on greenbelt land in Halesowen have sparked outrage from residents, councillors and campaign groups.

A detached house has been proposed to be constructed on part of the Pottery Farm site, at Mucklow Hill, but it is being opposed by individuals and groups. These include the farm owner Darren Smith, Halesowen North's Councillor Hilary Bills, Hales Owen Abbey Trust and the friends' groups for both Coombeswood and The Leasowes beauty spots.

Objections include that the building will be on a greenbelt area and not in keeping with the preservation of the countryside at Halesowen.

The plan, submitted by Jagrit Hear, has not yet gone to the planning committee. Councillor Hilary Bills, who has submitted an objection to the plans, said: "It is greenbelt land and generally speaking permission is not given for new builds on such land.

"There are a collection of buildings that are owned by one person but then on the other side there is a little barn and piece of land owned privately and they want to take it down and build this new build on the patch.

Minimal

"At the end of the day greenbelt is greenbelt and they won't even be building something for compensation of what they are knocking down."

In a design and access statement provided with the plans it states that the house would be constructed to the 'minimum carbon standard' and would have 'minimal impact on the landscape and no bearing on other adjoining dwellings'.

Roy Burgess, Trustee of Hales Owen Abbey Trust, states in his objection: "The

Report By Clare Butler

proposed development would be visible from many vantage points within and beyond the Coombeswood Wedge, and those views would be harmed by the development, which would be incompatible with the setting of the original farm buildings and their character.

"The proposed dwelling is a detached residence, of modern design, which will not be in keeping with the existing buildings and will be detrimental to their setting and appearance."

Plans for the build have been submitted by Neil Shepherd Design architects based in Stratford-Upon-Avon. They were not willing to make a comment on behalf of their client at this stage.

The plans were registered with Dudley Council on August 4.

Meanwhile, separate plans to convert and partially rebuild a grade II listed barn at the farm were granted permission by council planners last month.

Those plans also included the re-alignment of a public right of way which runs along the side of the adjoining farmhouse.



Concern over impact on beauty spots of development at Pottery Farm at Mucklow Hill, Halesowen

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CONTENTS	
MARK ANDREWS	6
LETTERS	7
CLUBS	12
MEMORY LANE	14
THE FAST TICKET	19
PROPERTY	27
MOTORING	33
SPORT	35 & 36
CONTACT US	

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Bag thief threw pensioner to ground



Mugging victim Noor Jahan

A GRANDMOTHER'S arm was badly broken as she was mugged on the way home from a supermarket.

Noor Jahan's limb was shattered when she was thrown to the floor by a man during the attack outside Saltwells Education Centre on Bowling Green Road, Netherton, on Sunday, August 21, at between 10.40 and 10.55am.

The thief then kicked the 69-year-old before snatching her handbag with £100 cash and bank cards inside and jumping into a dark blue car. Her bank card was later used to withdraw £300.

The widow was left needing surgery to insert a metal rod and plates into her injured right arm.

Mrs Jahan said: "I had been to Aldi and was on my way home. I was crossing to the other side of the road and then somebody behind me held my neck and kicked me."

She also suffered bruising and has pain from where she was grabbed around the neck.

"I feel terrible pain," added Mrs Jahan, a retired shopkeeper. "They said my arm will never be 100 per cent

right." She says she now feels scared to walk alone but said of her attacker: "I want to see his face again, and ask him why he did that to me."

Mrs Jahan thanked the couple who came to her aid, adding: "They saved my life."

Mrs Jahan caught a glimpse of the man who assaulted her and said that he was aged around 20 to 22, tall with a long face.

Police spokesman Lee Page said the attacker had driven off towards Saltwells Road.

Staff in tears as the last BHS store closes

EVERYTHING that could be moved had to go – including the fixtures and fittings – as the last BHS store in the West Midlands closed at the Merry Hill centre.

Shoppers snapped up some incredible bargains on Sunday but some staff were in tears as they face an uncertain future.

Scores of bargain-hungers were queuing outside when the branch at the shopping centre to opened for the last time and within minutes it was packed with shoppers grabbing bargains by the armful.

Every item of clothing and even electrical goods like toasters cost just £2. DVDs and CDs were ten for £1 but if you wanted the dishwashers from the cafe you were out of luck. They had already been snapped up along with the sinks, tables and freezers.

Tom Jones, aged 35, the store's operations manager, said: "I just feel very sad for all the 11,000 employees who have lost their job. It should never have been allowed to happen."

The shop had 160 staff but was down to 95 on its final day because others had already found work elsewhere.

Devastated

Mr Jones, with 12 years in retail, is still looking. He said: "I have got nothing in the pipeline. I am struggling but I have kept plodding on. My partner is devastated over what has happened to us."

"It will be terrible to walk past the shop tomorrow and see the inside completely bare. We have had a lot of support from the local community, especially other businesses in Merry Hill who have done their best to offer jobs to our staff, who stayed loyal to the end."

Jo Cook a 45-year-old mother-of-two from Tipton is among the eight employees who had worked at the branch since it opened 26 years ago.

The sales assistant said: "I burst into tears as I drove home last night



BHS staff Jo Cook and Tom Jones had words of comfort for each other as the Merry Hill store closed

when it finally hit me that today would be my last at BHS. I have loved working here."

"What makes it worse is that this store has always made a profit but the management of the company just wanted to make money out of the business for themselves. As a result of that we have all lost our jobs."

"I saw Dominic Chappell, who bought the company for £1, at the store conference last September. It feels like he along with Sir Philip Green and his wife have just trampled all over us."

Grace Redding, aged 22, of Stourbridge, had worked at the store for more than four years. Looking at some of the shoppers rushing for last-minute bargains, she said: "They are behaving as if it was a jumble sale and acting like a lot of vultures."

Sorry

Shopper Patricia Attwell, 58, of Wall Heath, said: "I feel very sorry for the staff. I have been shopping at this store for the past 20 years. I only had to take one item back and that was my fault."

Merry Hill's BHS and 21 other branches closed on Sunday, the last of the BHS 164-shop chain, ending 88 years of British retail history.

The company's collapse in April has affected 11,000 jobs, 22,000 pensions, sparked a parliamentary inquiry and led to criticism of former owners, ex-racing driver Dominic Chappell and retail tycoon Sir Philip Green.

Former BHS boss Sir Philip Green, who had owned the company for 15 years, was branded the 'unacceptable face of capitalism' by furious MPs.

Park event moved after travellers camp on site

TRAVELLERS have set up camp on Buffery Park – causing a charity event to be moved at the last minute.

The Friends and Residents group of the Dudley beauty spot were hit with a problem when around 30 caravans descended on the site on Wednesday night.

An event in aid of dementia patients was due to be staged at the park just three days later. It was moved to Sledmere Primary School in Buffery Road after event organiser Leah Marshall, aged 24, from Lower Gornal, had to make around 80 phone calls letting everybody know the new location.

"Why did they have to come this weekend of all weekends?" said Miss Marshall.

The clinical support worker at Russells Hall Hospital said: "I have been over, they did seem very friendly. They said they would move their caravans over to one side of the field but I couldn't just take their word for it."

"It is very frustrating with all the planning and advertising that has been done."

It is believed the travellers moved onto the site via the gate on Green Park Road. Residents claimed horses were left to run loose on the field and tyre marks were left in torn up turf.

Lynn Horton, secretary of The Friends and Residents of Buffery Park, said: "They will wreck our hard work when we have achieved our Green Flag status. Everyone does so much to keep this park going and for it to happen just before the event just makes it all worse."

Motorcyclist badly hurt in collision

A MOTORCYCLIST suffered serious injuries in a crash with a car when his helmet was flung more than 160ft by the force of the impact.

The smash happened in Saltwells Road, close to the junction with Crabourne Road, Netherton, shortly after 7.30am last Thursday.

Police officers closed the road near to The Bunch of Bluebells pub while investigations got under way.

The rider, a 21-year-old man, suffered multiple serious injuries with several fractures. He was taken to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital specialist trauma centre. The driver of the car, a man, sustained minor injuries but did not require hospital treatment.

Witnesses are asked to contact police on 101.

Road closed for resurfacing work

DUDLEY'S High Street will be closed between Stafford Street and Market Place for resurfacing between 7pm and 3am tonight (Thursday) and tomorrow night. The road will then be closed during the day on Sunday, between 8am and 4pm. Diversion signs will be in place.

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Talks aim at bringing the Heathens back home

CRADLEY Heathens speedway club is in talks to come home to Dudley borough after more than 20 years.

Land in the Cradley area has been identified for a possible new track with bosses in discussions with Dudley Council over a move. The Heathens have struggled to find a permanent home after losing their track in Dudley Wood two decades ago.

The club secured its immediate future last year after agreeing a deal to race at Monmore Green in Wolverhampton, where it spent four seasons from 2011 to 2014.

A return to the heart of the Black Country could be a way off yet, however, with talks at a very early stage. The exact site has not been disclosed but Heathens chairman Nigel Pearson said: "There is a piece of land we have done a site visit on and I can confirm there were officers from Dudley Council at that site visit. To progress further we have got to sit down with the leaders and officers.

"It remains the ultimate aim of the management of the club and our dearest wish to see speedway back in the Cradley area to take the club forward.

"We're really enjoying racing in Wolverhampton and grateful to everybody in Wolverhampton but we would love to see the Heathens back in the Cradley-Dudley area."

Council leader Pete Lowe said: "We have given the group a commitment that we will work with them to evaluate any sites which they can come up with."

Defendant admits bomb hoax charge

A BOMB hoax in Dudley has been admitted by a 38-year-old man when he appeared before magistrates last week.

Jamie Paul Bywater, of Halesowen Road, Netherton, pleaded guilty to informing police that there was a bomb on that same road on July 19 this year.

However, after the court heard from the defendant that he has issues with his mental health, his case was adjourned so that a pre-sentence report can be compiled.

Bywater is charged with communicating to Pc Morgan information that he knew or believed to be false.

Bywater is due to be sentenced at Walsall magistrates court on September 14.

Man swept to his death is named

A MAN who was swept to his death in the sea in Wales last month has been named as Luke Morton of Quinton. Mr Morton, 23, is believed to have been cut off by the tide on rocks near beauty spot Mwnt on August 7.

Station could be Black Country hub



Sandwell and Dudley railway station

A MAJOR revamp of Sandwell and Dudley railway station is among proposals put forward to the Government by a rail body.

West Midlands Rail said the station needed modernising in order to be recognised as a 'Black Country hub'.

West Midlands Rail (WMR), a consortium of 14 local authorities from across the Midlands, said there needed to be better recognition of the importance of the Oldbury station, which is the busiest between Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

It comes after Labour deputy leader

and West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson criticised proposals to cut the number of high-speed trains stopping at the station. The Government is consulting on the future of the Inter-City West Coast Rail Line.

Councillor Mark Winnington, WMR chairman, said: "This requires station modernisation, better facilities, and consideration of how other modes of transport can better integrate with the railway.

"Enhancing the opportunity for modal interchange would see Sandwell and Dudley move towards

realising its potential as a significant regional inter-city hub."

The group also says the last train of the night should stop at Sandwell and Dudley to ensure passengers have more choices and to support the evening economy. Currently, late trains between Birmingham and Wolverhampton often go via Walsall, missing out Sandwell and Dudley.

Councillor Winnington added: "The station is of major strategic importance and needs to be modernised to meet the needs of all users and to be ready for the arrival of HS2."

Tragic teen worried about an online photo

A TEENAGE girl who committed suicide had been concerned over a photograph she had taken being shared online, an inquest heard.

Phoebe Connop, aged 16, who attended Windsor High School in Halesowen, had been working with her father to get some money for her summer holidays on July 7. He had taken her home early because she said she was feeling unwell.

Black Country Coroner's Court, in Oldbury, heard that when her father returned after work to the address in Witley Avenue, Halesowen, expecting to find her ready to go out for a meal, he found her hanging.

The inquest heard that she had been speaking regularly with an Asian man she called her boyfriend, despite the two never having met.

In a private Instagram chat with her friends, she shared an edited picture of herself where her skin tone had been darkened. She was also wearing a scarf wrapped around her head.

She told friends online the look was to get approval from her 'boyfriend's' parents.

Image

The image was then taken out of the private chat and spread wider by one of her friends, prompting Phoebe into fearing a backlash, the inquest was told.

Detective sergeant Katherine Tomkins said: "From speaking to her friends in the weeks following her death, we discovered the image had circulated further than she wanted it to.

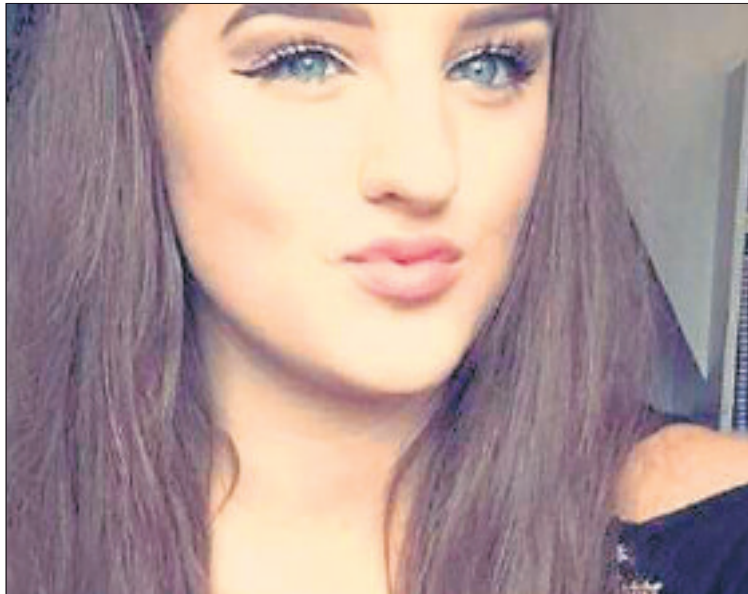
"There had been some negative reaction and she confided in her friend, who did take the image down at her request, she was scared of what the reaction might be from the Asian community in her area."

Phoebe, who was born in Stafford, was a keen gymnast who had ambitions of becoming a midwife.

Her family found a 'wish list' in her bedroom following her death, which stated that she wanted to study in sixth form.

Her father, Lawrence Connop, said: "She was a lovely girl who would never want to cause offence to anyone. She had shown me no indication in the weeks leading up to her death that there was anything wrong, let alone anything that would lead her to do this."

Black Country Coroner Zafar Siddique gave his condolences to Phoebe's family as he delivered a conclusion of suicide. He said: "This is an absolute tragedy for the family and I can't imagine the pain and distress they are going through, as well as her friends."



Phoebe Connop, aged 16, was worried that the image she had created online would cause offence

Local restaurants safe despite closures

THE struggling owner of Frankie & Benny's and Chiquito is closing 33 restaurants 'immediately', affecting up to 1,000 workers but the group says its West Midlands restaurants are safe.

The Restaurant Group, which has around 500 sites nationwide, said it was closing 14 Frankie & Benny's, 11 Chiquito outlets and eight other sites.

The popular group has Chiquito restaurants at Bentley Bridge in Wednesfield, at Walsall Waterfront and Dudley's Castlegate Park. Frankie & Benny's is also at Castlegate Park, as well as Merry Hill shopping centre, Walsall's Crown Wharf and Kidderminster's Weavers Wharf. The company's upmarket Brunning & Price pubs include the Inn at Shipley, near Bridgnorth.

The Restaurant Group said none of its West Midlands sites, including seven in Birmingham, were included in the closure plan.

Around 1,000 workers nationwide will be affected, although it is understood that the company will redeploy the majority.

The Restaurant Group had pre-tax losses of £22.5 million for the first half of the year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Olympian's gym club set to grow

A POPULAR gymnastics club which has Olympian Kristian Thomas among its members could open a second base in Sandwell after a four-year search.

Bosses from Earls Gymnastics club in Halesowen said they have been searching for extra premises since 2012 as numbers are booming.

Now the 400-member club has submitted proposals to Sandwell Council for a unit at Wharfside, Oldbury.

If planning permission is granted, the club will run both the Halesowen and Oldbury sites.

Former MP dies after short illness

TRIBUTES have been paid to former Wolverhampton MP Ken Purchase, who has died aged 77 after a short illness.

Mr Purchase was the Labour MP for Wolverhampton North East for 18 years until he retired in 2010, having previously served as a councillor in the city between 1970 and 1990. He died on Sunday.

Born and bred in the city, Mr Purchase was hugely respected among politicians and his constituents. He is survived by his wife Brenda and their two daughters Samantha and Lisa.

Major delays after traffic lights fail

TRAFFIC on roads surrounding one of the busiest roundabouts in the Black Country was brought to a standstill on Tuesday as a traffic light failure caused chaos.

Lights went down at the Birchley Island in Oldbury, causing problems on the M5 as well as the Birmingham New Road and Wolverhampton Road, with some saying a usual 15 minute trip took nearly two hours. The island connects the two dual carriageways as well as slip roads for M5 Junction 2.

Homes bid at former Holt Farm school site

A DISUSED primary school in Halesowen could be demolished and 27 homes built in its place.

Plans for the Holt Farm Primary site in Holt Road have been submitted to Dudley Council. This sets out proposals for the demolition of the existing school building and erection of 27 dwellings.

The school was closed in 2006 and the land was sold earlier this year.

One objection has been received to the plans.

Writer has Beatles link

A THRILLER writer and former cameraman who worked on The Beatles' animated film Yellow Submarine will be leading a free creative writing workshop at Halesowen Library on September 10. Mike Uden's workshop runs from 11am to 1pm. To book a place call (01384) 812980.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

I WAS tempted to go to a screening of the new Swallows and Amazons film until I saw the online previews. I'm not sure I want to watch a bunch of kids who can sail better than I can.

ARTHUR Ransome's adventure in the Lakes is very much a piece of its time. The 1930s kids have sharp knives, they light open fires, declare war on other kids and go sailing without lifejackets. If this movie were set in 2016 it would be Swallows and Asbos.

THE parents would probably get arrested, too. Swallows and Amazons begins with the kids' naval captain father hearing of their proposed voyage and sending the famous Duffers' Telegram to the children he has inexplicably named Titty and Roger: "Better drowned than duffers. If not duffers won't drown." So that's desertion, child neglect and dodgy forename-selection. The CPS would have a field day.



THE most sensible comment on Corbyn's "RAM-PACKED" train journey comes from his Labour comrade, Harriet Harman: "He's got a campaign team - you would have thought they would have booked him a seat." Quite. And for those who say such incidents are trivial and of no interest, in less than

24 hours Traingate generated almost 20,000 comments on the Guardian website. It's little things like Traingate, Jennifer's Ear and Gordon Brown's "bigoted woman" remark that win and lose general elections. From now on, whenever Corbyn is seen anywhere near empty seats, the lethal sniggering will begin. If Parliament were not in recess and David Cameron were still in No 10, he would have ripped Corbyn to shreds in Prime Minister's Questions.

AS the nation's favourite bare-chested scyther prepares for another series, a Daily Telegraph reader asks: Why do we call the drama POLdark? Most Cornish words have the stress on the second syllable as with PoiZEATH, PenZANCE and PoiPERRO. So why is this show not PoiDARK? Answers by email, thanks, not on a postCARD.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Jilted boyfriend broke ex-sweetheart's nose

A JILTED boyfriend broke the nose of his former sweetheart when she refused to have him back, a judge heard.

Law student Akeeb Pervaiz had been going out with the victim for three years before she decided to end the relationship, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 22-year-old from Stourbridge, who worked part time as a security guard, pleaded with her on the doorstep of her home to give him a second chance on November 11, explained prosecutor Mr Howard Searle. He continued: "He asked to be forgiven for things that had happened in the past but she said 'no, this time it is over for good'. He had been trying to embrace her but, on hearing this, broke off, called her a bitch and head-butted her."

Pervaiz ran to his car and drove off. His victim had to go to Russells Hall Hospital for treatment to a fractured nose. It was corrected without surgery.

His former girlfriend said in a statement that the attack left her psychologically as well as physically injured. She explained: "I lost all my confidence. I felt ugly and could not look at myself in the mirror. I also suffered panic attacks."

Mr Benjamin Nicholls, defending, said: "This criminal folly was not premeditated but, with it he has jeopardised the career he hoped to follow and his part-time job.

By John Scott

He comes from a respectable family. He is embarrassed and ashamed by what he did."

Pervaiz, from Paxton Road, Wollescote, admitted assault causing actual bodily harm and was given a 12-month prison sentence suspended for two years with 250 hours' unpaid work.

He was also told to pay the victim £500 compensation and ordered to have no contact with her for five years.

Judge Marcus Tregilgas-Davey told him: "You simply would not, and could not, accept that the relationship had ended. Feelings were raw but your behaviour towards that woman was disgraceful. The incident happened in her own home where she was entitled to feel safe. She has suffered significant psychological harm. She has even moved jobs because of her concern that you might come to her place of work."

Farmer's friends rally around



Firefighters at the scene of the barn fire at White House Farm

MORE than £1,500 has been raised for a Halesowen farm which was hit by two fires on successive days last week.

A fundraising page set up by a family friend Cheryl Hart has seen donations pour in with pledges of money in a matter of days.

Several calves died and 50 of the animals were evacuated as crews battled the barn blaze at Ross Beasley's White House Farm on Sunday and Monday of last week, both fires just 24 hours apart.

A barn and equipment were also destroyed in the incidents.

Police said the first fire at the farm in Lutley Lane was being treated as arson, although firefighters are still investigating the cause.

The second fire was not being treated as suspicious by police.

Two men, aged 51 and 16, were arrested in connection with the first fire and released on police bail after the second blaze was reported.

On the JustGiving page, Cheryl Hart commented: "Let's raise as much money as possible to help them towards rebuilding their livelihood."

Results are celebrated by GCSE students

IT was a day of celebrations for students as they received their GCSE results.

At Ellowes Hall in Dudley, almost half of the students averaged at least a grade B. This year, 82 per cent of students passed English and a third of students studying business, IT, sport and single science were awarded A* or an A grade.

Headteacher Alan Jasper said: "We are very pleased to report how well our students and staff have risen to the challenge. We also thank our talented and dedicated teaching staff who have worked so hard to ensure their students achieve their potential, together with their parents and carers."

Pupils at Old Swinford Hospital were thrilled with their results, which saw them achieve a pass rate of just over 93 per cent in five or more subjects at grades at A* to C. Edward Cooper, of Stourbridge, achieved 10 A* grades and one grade A.

Headteacher Paul Kilbride said: "We are all absolutely delighted with the boys' GCSE results. I would like to thank their dedicated teachers for all that they have done."

At Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath students achieved a 53 per cent A* to C pass rate for five GCSEs. Three years ago this figure was 44 per cent. There was also improvement at the top end with a record 91 A* grades amongst the year 11 pupils.

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War memorial is vandalised after repairs

A CEMETERY war memorial has been vandalised – for the second time – after work to repair it.

The Boer War memorial stands proudly in Dudley Cemetery, and depicts a soldier with a rifle and fixed bayonet defending a wounded bugler.

The monument commemorates the 56 Dudley men who died during the conflict in South Africa between 1899 and 1902.

However, a determined vandal has climbed up the base listing the engraved names and snapped the soldier's bayonet off. It follows previous damage to the same statue in 2013, when the soldier's original bronze rifle was stolen, and his marble hands broken off.

Money was then raised to repair the memorial in time for Remembrance Day in 2015. A replacement rifle and hands were carved by stonemason Malcolm Morris, while aluminium was used to create a new bayonet and strap.

Councillor Steve Waltho, said: "It is just terribly sad. To hear that someone has wantonly vandalised a memorial, it is beyond understanding. Whoever did this is the lowest of the low. Once again we will rally around and support any restoration."

The monument was first unveiled on September 23, 1904. It cost around £300, paid for by public subscription

Travellers' caravans invade park again

TRAVELLERS returned to an Oldbury park just five days after an encampment was removed from the site.

Around a dozen caravans descended on Tidale Park on Friday.

It comes after West Midlands Police issued a section 61 to remove an encampment from the park the weekend before.

New 20mph zones are planned for roads near to school sites

Pet foxes are a first for Black Country vet



Bonnie Leibowitch from White Cross Vets in Tividale was surprised when Paul Presley from Blackheath brought in foxes at my notes which showed they were foxes!

A VET was left 'foxed' when a client brought two unexpected animals to be microchipped.

Bonnie Leibowitch from White Cross Vets in Tividale couldn't believe it when a pair of foxes were brought in by Paul Presley from Blackheath.

The vet said: "My patient list showed that we had a Rupert and a Ruby booked in for microchipping, but I had to do a double take when I looked

not be released into the wild as they have toxoplasmosis, which is a common disease that is treatable with antibiotics but not curable and will stay with them for life.

Bonnie added: "Treating Rupert and Ruby was not only a first for me, but an incredibly moving experience to see how Paul cares for these two adorable friendly foxes.

"Unfortunately these two foxes can-

not be released into the wild as they have toxoplasmosis, which is a common disease that is treatable with antibiotics but not curable and will stay with them for life.

"They were both incredibly tame and friendly," she added.

Paul runs The Black Country Fox Sanctuary from his home with the help of friend Mandy Newton from Oldbury.

ROADS around more than a dozen schools are set to become 20mph zones as council chiefs look to improve safety.

The speed limit will be reduced outside 16 schools in the Dudley borough, while a raft of other safety measures would also be brought in.

The measures have been announced as part of the authority's Local Safety Scheme for 2016/17.

Dudley Council's deputy leader Judy Foster said: "Obviously this is something we fully support as a council – it's integral from a road safety point of view. We know there are schools in areas where there's a large amount of traffic, and the safety of our children is paramount both in school and on the way to school. This policy has been very well received."

In Dudley, 20mph limits would be introduced outside Woodside Community School on Highgate Road, and the Bishop Milner Catholic High School on Burton Road and the Broadway. Schools in Halesowen to be affected would be Earls High and Tenterfields Primary, Halesbury School and Hurst Green Primary.

Markings

In Stourbridge, changes would come into force at Ham Dingle Primary School, Oldswinford CoE Primary School and Gig Mill Primary School.

Elsewhere in the borough, the speed limit would be brought down at Colley Lane Primary School in Cradley.

Council bosses have also said they will look at bringing in traffic regulation orders, which can restrict the use of roads at certain times, and updating road markings outside some schools.

Highways bosses are also considering installing speed cameras on the Birmingham New Road.

Young NYC rock trio have Brum pub gig

NEW York indie rock outfit Sunflower Bean play the Hare and Hounds at Kings Heath on Monday.

Fronted by St Laurent model and singer Julia Cumming, the trio also feature emerging guitar hero Nick Kivlen and drummer Jacob Faber.

The band released their debut album Human Ceremony at the start of the year, a blend of naive vocals from Julia and Nick blended with melodic, sometimes dreamy songs, propelled by Jacob's percussive and elevated by Nick's psychedelic guitar flourishes. Rock fans with longish memories may compare them to Lush and The Sundays.

Check out the tracks Easier Said, I Was Home and the single Wall Watcher.

For more details on the band see sunflowerbean.bandcamp.com or hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk websites.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Problem of where this rail hub is stationed

SANDWELL & Dudley railway station didn't get off to the best start. When it was upgraded to inter-city status amid much fanfare back in 1984, the driver of the first express train forgot to stop, leaving the civic bigwigs stranded on the platform.

Now with threats of cuts to its inter-city services, our local leaders are fighting back. West Midlands Rail, a consortium of councils across the West Midlands, says Sandwell & Dudley should be modernised to reflect its status as a "Black Country hub".

Normally, I switch off the moment anybody says the word 'hub'. But any investment in the Black Country's threadbare rail network is something that should be welcomed.

The problem with Sandwell & Dudley is that, despite its grandiose name, it is a bit in the middle of nowhere. Before the inter-city upgrade, it was plain Oldbury, but even that was a bit above its station. In truth, it is next to a tyre fitter's between Oldbury and West Brom. Which is great if you want to go to London while having your tyres fitted, but that tends to be a niche market.

What they should have done was upgraded Dudley Port, up the road in Tippton, instead. This, too, is a bit out of the way, but it was also an interchange for the old South Staffordshire line, which used to link up with Stourbridge, Dudley, Wednesbury, Walsall and Lichfield. Imagine if that was reopened, and you could get from Wednesbury to London or Manchester with just one change. That would put the Black Country on the rail map. A hub with spokes.

As recently as last year there were plans to introduce a rudimentary very light rail service linking Dudley Port to Dudley town centre. I thought it was fantastic, but local government deemed it a threat to its beloved Midland Metro.

We could have seen the first stage of reconnecting vast swathes of the Black Country to the national rail network. Instead, we got an artist's impression of a tram outside Dudley Zoo.

□ □ □

THE so-called 'burkini' must be one of the most ridiculous garments ever invented. The idea of sunbathing while dressed up like somebody from the Scottish Widows advert is inexplicable, and given that it only appeared during the past 10 years or so, it can hardly be described as fundamental to Islam.

Yet how can anybody fail to be appalled at the sight of four armed French policemen swaggering across the beach in Nice and ordering a Muslim woman to remove her clothing?

Incidentally, two of the coppers in the picture were wearing knee-length shorts with their body armour. Maybe they are not in the best position to tell people what to wear?



A Naafi canteen that Sgt McArdle ran



Sgt John McArdle, second from left, during service in Egypt



Former soldier Sgt McArdle poses while on active duty

Soldier's view of war from canteen in diary

THE diary of a World War Two soldier from Bilston has become the basis of a new book compiled by a fellow veteran. Raymond Griffiths was given the diary of Sergeant John McArdle following a chance encounter.

Mr Griffiths, aged 90, of Drew Crescent, Stourbridge, was given the diary by Sgt McArdle's son Jim around two years ago.

Jim had planned to ceremoniously burn the diary but had second thoughts. He approached Mr Griffiths as a well-known local historian, through his late wife Emily, who worked at a nearby newsagents.

Mr McArdle, aged 68, said: "I told Emily that I was planning to burn the diary and scatter the ashes by my mum and dad's grave. She immediately said 'Oh no, don't do that, Ray would like to have a look at that' and that's how it all started."

The diary revealed the Second World War experiences of the sergeant including his travels around the Middle East.

Account

After reading the diary and cross referencing it with major events during the war, Mr Griffiths was inspired to create a book based on the diary.

Entitled 'My Diary of my service in the Middle East 1941 - 1945 by Sergeant John McArdle RASC/EFT', the book gives a first person account of the war, including the realities of living in and travelling around Syria to the Valley of the Kings.

Mr McArdle said: "Dad was a proper old soldier. Whenever you'd leave for a trip he'd salute you before you went out the door. Even just before he died in 1995, my wife and I went to visit him in hospital and as we were leaving he saluted. He died the next day."

"I think he would be so proud of the work Ray has done in bringing his diary to life, I think he would love it to be honest."



Raymond Griffiths with a photo of Sgt McArdle, a scrapbook and the diary he has made into a book

The diary of a Second World War veteran has been turned into a book. Reporter JESSICA LABHART takes up the story

Mr Griffiths said: "The diary was of great interest to me as a veteran myself, it really brought back some memories."

"Sergeant McArdle was charged with setting up the NAAFI's - the canteens run by Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes to provide food for soldiers abroad."

"He never fired a shot throughout the war, from what the diary says anyway."

"One of the most interesting episodes in the

book is when he was tasked with creating a meal for what he called 'the big three' which was the Prime Minister Winston Churchill, President Theodore Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin, before they attended the Tehran Conference."

Chandelier

Sgt McArdle set to work straight away on November 18 1943, but was told on November 22 that the plan to entertain the three was cancelled, after a crystal chandelier was installed over the dining table!

Now Mr Griffiths hopes his book will be featured in an exhibition at the Wolverhampton City Archives, along with several of the other



Raymond himself as a serviceman

artefacts he has amassed from the former sergeant.

He said: "I have two or three photo albums from his time in the war, as well as his pay book, his soldiers' release book and a special baton he always carried with him in case of any trouble. I think it's inspired by his time in the Middle East, as it has a snake's head carved into the handle."

Though Mr Griffiths discovered that the cost of publishing the book would be too high, he hopes that people may be able to enjoy it as part of the exhibition.

He said: "I think we will have a captive audience here in Wolverhampton for the work, so I hope I will be able to show it off, next to the fascinating document that inspired it."

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Why schools should emulate the Olympics

HAVING ditched comprehensive schools in favour of academies, the Tories now intend to resurrect Grammar schools as a means of improving social mobility – proving yet again that they are completely out of touch with the needs of ordinary people.

Take it from me, a former secondary schoolboy, labelling children as failures at the age of eleven seriously inhibits social mobility.

I missed the eleven plus exam and preparations for it due to being confined in hospital. I took the exam, still unprepared, in another school. I know

without doubt that it contributed to my failure.

My siblings and I subsequently worked extremely hard to achieve the status we eventually attained: a managing director, a deputy head teacher, middle management and a supervisor. I often wonder what heights we might have reached with a better education.

Changing educational systems is both expensive and irrelevant to improving social mobility, the answer is more fundamental. We only need to emulate the actions of the UK sport's governing bodies that have produced

Britain's best Olympics results in 100 years. They recruit the best mentors and trainers, provide the best facilities and, crucially, do not suffer from continual interference from central government.

The route to social mobility lies in producing better teachers, strengthening school relations with parents, providing the best facilities and allowing schools and local authorities to work together. Scrap the billions going into HS2 and put the money into education.

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

Fish taken from canals for dinner

WHILE walking my dog along a lovely stretch of a canal in Oldbury I came across what can only be described as a man-made eyesore. What I saw was three extinguished fires, at least 50 beer cans and the packaging of a fishing rod start-up kit.

A young man told me that people night-fish the canals and eat the fish they catch. He put his foot in the embers, moved it about and there where the remains of fish. He told me that this sort of thing was happening all over the Midlands and Warrens Hall Nature Reserve, near Dudley, had also had a lot of fish, ducks and coots killed for food.

If this is so, what is being done to stop it? If it is allowed to carry on unchecked then our waterways, pools and ponds will be barren of fish and ducks. The mind boggles on why this is happening when fish is in abundance in the supermarkets.

G HARPER
Oldbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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EMAIL

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expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Don't write off the non-academic pupils

IT is result time again in GCSE and A-level exams and once again we are hearing how certain areas of society have 'under achieved'. This year they say it is boys from working class background. Rubbish!

I am sick and tired of keeping hearing these students being put into boxes because they have not done as well as the education system would have liked in their academic subjects.

These are human beings who excel in different areas and it is up to the system to sort out an education programme which allows for non-academic students to be given a chance to shine. All the schools are asked to produce is pupils who can give high marks in particular subjects and are judged on those marks.

What about the lad who can name every plant in the garden but can't add up very well? What about the girl who can design and make all her own clothes but can't write an essay? These are the ones that are continually told they have 'under achieved' and come out of school thinking they will never get anywhere. The world does not only need academics, we need manual workers too. What all pupils need is a high grade in self-esteem.

JENNY JAMES
Wordsley

Abuse off motorist on mobile

I have just returned from a visit to my local supermarket. I noticed a female driver at a road junction about to turn with her right hand clearly holding a mobile phone. Regrettably, this is a sight we see all too often on our roads these days.

In light of fatal accidents caused by driver mobile phone usage whilst in charge of a moving vehicle, I find it hard to believe that some drivers selfishly persist in this dangerous practice. This woman also had a small child passenger in the front seat.

I tooted my horn and shouted, "You shouldn't be on your phone!" Sadly, I expect many of your readers will not be surprised by her response. I despair at the example some people are setting the younger members of our society. Perhaps a strengthening of the law and punishment against this perilous behaviour will be the only real deterrent.

MRS CLAIRE JONES
Dudley

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Coroner is writing to health bosses after suicide in hospital

STAFF at a psychiatric hospital 'failed to respond to obvious risks' regarding a patient who killed himself, an inquest heard.

Glen Jordan, aged 39, from Cannock, was found hanged at Bushey Fields Hospital, in Dudley, around 2am on April 24.

Following a two-day inquest, a jury returned a verdict stating that they believe Mr Jordan hanged himself after staff saw a bag in his room, but failed to recognise it as a risk.

Coast to coast cyclists boost hospice funds

THREE fundraising cyclists have completed the Coast-to-Coast challenge in aid of a Stourbridge hospice.

Scott Moore, Rikki Theodosi and Andrew Baxter started their challenge in the North East and cycled from Tynecastle to Whitehaven in just under three days. They did so in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge but it wasn't all plain sailing.

On the second day, Scott fell ill, leaving Rikki and Andrew to complete the middle leg of the cycle challenge on their own. However, Scott picked himself up and got himself on the bike for the third and final day, as he was "determined to finish at all costs."

Scott, an engineer with Chapmans Electrical in Cradley Heath, and Rikki had previously climbed Ben Nevis to raise money for the same cause and between the two events have brought in more than £3,000.

Visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk to find out more about the hospice.

The first day of the inquest at Black Country Coroners Court heard how Mr Jordan, a part-time data engineer, had a history of depression following the loss of his mother and break up of a relationship. He had previously tried to commit suicide last year and on another occasion six months before that.

At the Black Country Coroner's Court in Oldbury, the conclusion was recorded as misadventure with a failure to respond to the risk of self-harm.

Lisa Bowers, who has a son with Glen, said: "Glen admitted himself to Bushey Fields because he didn't want to die." The court heard how Mr Jordan lived in a caravan following the breakup of his relationship.

While in hospital, Mr Jordan was checked upon hourly. On the evening before he died, he had spoken to a nurse who said he seemed in 'bright spirits'. He was found hanged in his room at around 2am.

For the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership, Stuart Knowles said: "I don't want to underplay this case but it does not show a lack of care from staff. This wasn't a case where a blade or a bottle of pills had been left in his room, it was a strap attached to a bag."

Coroner Zafar Siddique said: "I will be writing to the trust in an effort to prevent future deaths as a result of something like this."

Owners distraught as restaurant wrecked



The Hickory's Smokehouse restaurant at the height of the devastating blaze Picture by Patricia Gooding

THE owners of a Wall Heath restaurant which was gutted by fire say they are 'absolutely devastated' but will rebuild the popular American-style eatery.

A total of 15 fire crews were called to deal with the blaze at Hickory's Smokehouse in Wall Heath in the early hours of last Thursday. At the peak of the blaze there were 100 firefighters on the scene.

The restaurant, which opened in November, is in the former Kingfisher Club, a popular cabaret venue

for many years which attracted many famous acts.

Firefighters remained on the scene all day Thursday after being called at 2.30am. More than 20 rooms at the adjoining Kingfisher Hotel were evacuated.

The owners of Hickory's, which has five branches, said they were distraught for their team and the local community. They said in a statement: "We are absolutely devastated about the news of the fire at our Wall Heath restaurant both for our team and the

local community. Thankfully no one has been injured. Firefighters have done an incredible job fighting the blaze and we are just waiting to speak to the police and fire investigation experts to establish the cause. We'd like to thank people for all their support."

Crews from Brierley Hill and Stourbridge were the first to arrive and were joined by 13 more appliances as smoke billowed from the USA barbecue-style restaurant. Firefighters used a hydraulic platform as they battled to bring the blaze under control.

Messages in parks on dog mess menace

A CAMPAIGN to shame dog owners who are failing to clean up after their pets has got under way in Quarry Bank.

Dudley Council has launched a campaign in and around Stevens Park following complaints raised by the public. It includes a pathway which links Thorns Road to Park Road.

The council has been stencilling the floor with distinctive warning signs to remind people of the importance of a cleaning up after their dogs.

It leaves a spray-painted warning on the pavement in key areas, which is not permanent and washes off over time.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "I'm sure the vast majority of people love their community as much as we do and clean up after their pets."

"People have a right to walk along the street and play in parks without fear of treading in disgusting mess left by dogs. We would rather people cleaned up after their dogs than us having to prosecute them."

"The stencils do not permanently mark the pavements so are environmentally friendly and hopefully will be a good reminder for people."

People face fines of up to £1,000 and prosecution through the courts if they fail to properly dispose of their animal's excrement.

Travel chaos caused by rail signal fault

BANK Holiday travellers faced chaos on the trains as the main line between Wolverhampton and Birmingham was brought to a standstill for more than two hours.

A signalling fault brought services to a halt heading towards Birmingham from around 9.30am. Passengers were able to use their tickets on buses and the Midland Metro. A service was put on from around 11am but did not stop at Sandwell and Dudley station.

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Free days to explore historic buildings



Haden Hill House in Cradley Heath will be throwing open its doors for a series of events during Heritage Open Days

PEOPLE are invited to discover historic venues that are right on their doorsteps for free during the Heritage Open Days from September 8 to 11.

During the event, buildings that are normally closed to the public will have their doors opened, while other buildings that already open to the public waive their admission charge.

Churchill Forge, near Hagley, is just one of the venues participating in the Heritage Open Days weekend. The forge, located in the village between Stourbridge and Kidderminster, is one of the very last surviving waterwheel powered forges in the country.

There is lots going on in the heart of the Black Country at Cradley Heath's Haden Hill with Proms in the Park on September 11 from 2pm. Tours of historic Haden Hill Park take place on September 8 and 9. The Best's Angels exhibition of Victorian photographs is on show at Haden Hill House Museum on all the Heritage Days and Haden Old Hall has an open weekend (September 10 & 11).

The Black Country Living Museum is running behind the scenes tours of its stores on September 10. Railway and theatre memorabilia plus props from ghost tours will be on show at

the Castle Hotel on Castle Hill from September 9 to 11.

St Peter's Church in Kinver is open to visitors on September 10, the Quaker Meeting House in Scotts Road, Stourbridge, is open September 10 and 11, and there will be 3pm tower tours at St John's Church, Hagley, on September 10 and 11.

Friends of Lye & Wollscote Cemetery will lead guided walks around the cemetery on September 10. The History in the Headstones walks are at 10:30am and 12:30pm.

See the Heritage Open Days website for further details.

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Opera singer to join Songsters

POPULAR opera singer Lesley Garrett will be singing in Dudley as special guest of a local choir.

The soprano will be the guest at the Kingswinford-based Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir's autumn concert to be held at Dudley Town Hall on September 24.

The concert will be compered by TV presenter Joanne Malin. Tickets costing £25 are available in advance on 01746 763850.

The 61-year-old Yorkshire-born singer has released more than 15 albums since her 1991 recordings debut and her 1995 album Soprano in Red received the Gramophone Award for Best-selling Classical Artist of the Year. Garrett was a featured artist on the platinum selling Perfect Day single released in aid of Children in Need.

She was a contestant in the first series of Strictly Come Dancing, a regular on Countdown and Loose Women. She was awarded a CBE in 2002 for services to music.

Martin rises to the Mont Blanc challenge



Mountain marathon man Martin Davis hit the heights

A FIREFIGHTER from Dudley tackled the steep slopes of the Alps in the gruelling Mont Blanc Marathon in France to raise funds for a Black Country charity.

Martin Davis raised £645 for the White House Cancer Support after battling 26 miles across the vertical terrain of Mont Blanc, a mountain which is nearly 16,000 feet high.

The 56-year-old from Kingswinford is a member of Green Watch at Dudley Fire Station, based on Burton Road.

Mr Davies said: "I'm a firefighter and used to training, but Mont Blanc's a tough call as it not only covers the usual 26 miles, it's also a vertical challenge and the climbing and descent are incredibly punishing.

"I was really lucky with the weather conditions, as the two previous days had seen torrential thunderstorms across Chamonix, but thankfully the day of the marathon it was bright and dry, just perfect."

Martin, of Kingswinford, decided to raise funds for WHCS after members of his family received support from the group. He also worked as a volunteer driver for the charity for three years.

He added: "This was third time I've done the Mont Blanc Marathon – the first year the weather was so bad I couldn't see a hand in front of me and last year it was so hot I failed to make the final mile within the time limit. But this year I finished well within the nine-hour overall cut off time and raised funds for WHCS, so I'm very happy."

WHCS Manager, Caroline Webb, said: "Martin trained incredibly hard for the Mont Blanc Marathon; it's a gruelling task and we're very appreciative that he raised such an incredible amount for our general funds."

White House Cancer Support, in Ednam Road, Dudley, is a drop-in centre for people affected by cancer and is open weekdays from 9am to 5pm.

Domino's delivering 25 new pizza jobs

PIZZA fans have a new option in Dudley with the opening of Domino's Pizza on Throne Road this week.

The pizza shop will be creating 25 new jobs for pizza makers, serving staff and deliver drivers.

£36.5m is handed over to fire up the 'Midlands Engine'

THE West Midlands Combined Authority has received its first multi-million pound payment from Government.

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid announced the transfer of £36.5million directly to the new super-council through the region's devolution deal.

It is the first of payments due to total £1.1 billion over the next 30 years.

The West Midland Combined Authority (WMCA) was created in June and its 12 constituent members in-

clude Birmingham, Solihull, Coventry, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall councils.

The super-council has taken control of transport, economic development, housing, skills and mental health services across the region.

Homes

WMCA chair, Solihull councillor Bob Sleigh, said: "The West Midlands is the manufacturing heartland of the UK and a dynamic exporter of high quality goods and services but we believe there is much economic growth that remains untapped.

"That's why this payment marks

the start of an exciting new era in which we will be far better equipped to build on our strengths, improve productivity and skills and deliver the transport infrastructure and new homes our region needs. It gives us the tools to drive forward the Midlands Engine, helping to unlock growth, jobs and prosperity and ultimately a better quality of life for the four million people of the West Midlands."

The new authority is set to be chaired by the region's first-ever directly-elected mayor, with elections due in May 2017. WMCA aims to see 1.9 million homes built and half a million jobs created.



Councillor Bob Sleigh

More homes on Brettell Lane

MORE than 60 new homes will be built on a business park in Brierley Hill, after council planners gave their approval.

The outline proposals for 61 properties at the Waterside Business Park off Brettell Lane have been given the green light.

Developers said the scheme will 'regenerate a derelict industrial site into much needed housing, whilst aiding the continual growth of the area'.

Brierley Hill's Councillor Rachel Harris said: "These are outline plans so we will wait and see what the more detailed proposals will be. So far all the development we've had along that stretch has been very nice. Hopefully the quality and calibre of this new estate will live up to the other developments. The only point of concern about further development along Brettell Lane is the impact on traffic conditions which are very congested already."



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Memorial oak tree is planted

Hawne TG

VICE-CHAIRMAN Chris Hicks opened the July meeting and presented Joyce Graves with a bouquet of flowers to celebrate her recent birthday.

She then presented long service badges. Betty Conop received a badge to mark 40 years of membership, while Sheila Jeacons, Sheila Pearson and Margaret Reid all received their 25 year badges.

This was followed by a report of the National AGM which was held in Bournemouth.

The mandates which the guild discussed at the meeting were organ transplants and modern day slavery. Chris Hicks carried the West Midlands banner.

The evening speaker was Fiona Lucas who with the aid of tea towels took the ladies around the world. The tea towels have been purchased from the many countries she has visited in her role as a girl guide leader.

On July 19, a group of members celebrated the planting of the guild's memorial tree in Leasowes Park.

Over the last few years the guild has lost some splendid and irreplaceable women so a tree was planted in their memory. After viewing the oak tree, the ladies then returned to the warden's hut for tea and cakes.

The next meeting is on September 19, when a harvest buffet will be enjoyed.

New friends are always welcome. Meetings are held in the Venue 2 room at the Zion Christian Centre, Halesowen at 7.30pm.

Early Black Country history recounted

Attendance falls due to holidays and Olympics

Kingswinford TG

THERE were fewer members present than usual at the August meeting of Kingswinford TG. This may have been because people were besotted with The Olympic Games but is more likely due to the holiday season.

Sheila Watts was welcomed back from her sojourn in Devon, and was soon busy telling ladies of venues for the next few luncheons and the details of the Christmas lunch.

Ron Gallivan told about The Amish, much of which was quite contrary to what people thought to be true. The talk was illustrated with delightful photographs.

He was thanked on the club's behalf by Joyce Major. Members were also told of the plans for the Harvest Supper in September.

Section leaders announced forthcoming events. The federation report was read by Enid Fennell. Mavis and Doreen offered to wash up.

Raffle prizes were won by Bessie Waters and Sue Wilson. Kath Turner had provided a beautiful pot plant for the chairman's table which she kindly gave as an extra raffle prize.

Wordsley M TG

THE August meeting was opened by chairman for the day Wendy Lloyd who welcomed members and visitors.

The Federation report included the Harvest Lunch at Wollaston Village Hall on September 28 and the Christmas Workshop on November 19 at the Ruskin Centre from 10am-4pm.

The Guild Lunch Club will meet on September 5 at The Lawnswood pub, Wordsley at noon for 12.30pm. The Christmas Lunch outing on Monday, December 5, will take place at The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley and a coffee morning is arranged for September 26 at the home of Pat Caddick from 10.30am.

As Stan Boardman is now able to provide the entertainment in December, the proposed coffee morning to sell Comic Relief goods will have to be put back.

A day out at Boundary Mills is being arranged for November 3.

Wendy introduced Pat Green who gave a very interesting talk entitled 'Early History of the Black Country'.

Liz Hubbard gave the vote of thanks and Wendy gave details of the next meeting which will be on Monday September 19 when there will be a Harvest Table sale and a quiz.

All meetings are held at Wordsley Green Community Centre, the third Monday each month 10am.

For further information ring 01384 288219.

New season gets under way

Sedgley Local History Society

THE Society's new season of talks begins on Thursday, September 8 at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street, Sedgley.

The speaker will be Anne Clark, a keen family historian and committee member of Friends of Dudley Archives.

Her illustrated talk will appeal to everyone interested in tracing their family trees. Newcomers and old hands are bound to pick up helpful tips and where to find those nug-

gets on the internet and in archive centres. There will be a handout and an opportunity to chat to Anne about your project.

As usual visitors are invited to come along. Individual talks cost £1.

Annual membership of the society costs £5 and gives free access to the programme of talks.

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Former Dudley student was Robot Wars finalist

A TEAM from the Black Country came runners up in the final of Robot Wars 2016.

Three former Pontins' Bluecoats were crowned champions of the TV show on Sunday but the bostin' boffins Team Carbide still managed to get to the final two.

Team Carbide's robot was complete with a vicious blade that spins at up to 2,300rpm. It was put together by David Moulds, a robotics engineer for Cadbury, Sam Smith, an aerospace engineer for Rolls Royce, and former Dudley College student Sheryl Prior. She lives in Wombourne and works for JLR in Wolverhampton.

The show's winners, Apollo, said they could not believe their luck

after winning the show, which was rebooted this year after 12 years. The trio, who met at a Pontins holiday camp, were presented the prestigious trophy by hosts Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon.

The new series on BBC Two follows teams of engineers doing battle against other robots and house robots in a special arena, and saw 40 groups battle it out over six episodes.

The final saw the six robots still standing - Carbide, Shockwave, TR2, Apollo, Pulsar and Thor - compete in two group battles, each with three robots. One loser from each fight was then eliminated.

The four surviving robots faced off and in the grand final Apollo faced Carbide and emerged triumphant.



Former Dudley student Sheryl Prior with her Team Carbide co-engineers who reached the final of Robot Wars

Hundreds to attend famous bike festival

HUNDREDS of people are expected to flock to the famous Shelsley Walsh Bike Festival on September 4.

The event takes place at the iconic historic Hill Climb course in Worcestershire and attracts motorcycle enthusiasts from across the country.

This year, it will see stuntman Dick Shepherd, who has appeared in more than 500 films and television programmes, including the original Italian Job and James Bond films, making his debut.

Classic

Organisers of the festival see it as a celebration of engineering excellence, from rare, classic, modern, customised to hand-built bikes and those of historic significance.

This year, they have secured the most diverse vehicles yet. They include the world's fastest shopping trolley, powered by a Chinook helicopter engine, to the Warhorse, the world's Fastest monowheel, a one-wheeled vehicle that the rider sits inside and travels up to 65mph.

Drug deals to clear debts led to prison

A CASH-STRAPPED labourer who turned to drug-dealing in an attempt to get out of debt is beginning a three-year prison sentence.

Police found £740 worth of cocaine, a set of scales and a list of customers when the home of Thomas Oglesby's girlfriend was searched, after he had been stopped at the wheel of a BMW on Friday November 27 last year, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 22-year-old was in possession of a small amount of cannabis.

Cocaine for his personal use was later discovered at an address in Beecher Road South, Cradley, where he was living at the time.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said: "When officers visited the home of his girlfriend they found 37 street deals of cocaine together with the paraphernalia of drug dealing."

Oglesby was released on bail pending further inquiries but was stopped again by police because of his erratic driving on May 1. He was in a Vauxhall car and unsuccessfully tried to get away.

Gas

The defendant was driving with drugs in his system and had a CS gas canister, the court was told. The prohibited weapon was found hidden at his home.

Miss Nicole Steers, defending, said: "He found himself in financial difficulty and a friend loaned him money on a number of occasions."

"He dealt drugs for the friend to settle the debt and, once that had been achieved, started selling drugs for his own financial benefit."

Body cameras for medics not ruled out

WEST Midlands Ambulance Service has not ruled out fitting staff with body cameras to curb physical attacks.

The service, which saw nearly 300 of its staff attacked last year, admitted it was a 'million miles away' from the cameras being implemented. It comes after a number of ambulance services around the country said they were considering the technology as a solution to reducing incidents of abuse against staff.

A spokesman for the ambulance service, which covers both the Black Country and Staffordshire, said: "The Trust has a zero tolerance policy when it comes to attacks on our staff, be they verbal or physical. Last year, almost 300 of our staff were physically attacked - that is a despicable figure given those staff were there to help someone. As a result we have installed CCTV on all of our ambulances. We are always keen to explore other possibilities in order to give staff the protection they deserve."

By John Scott

She revealed that Oglesby's mother was seriously ill and that his girlfriend was pregnant.

The lawyer concluded: "He knows he has done wrong and is ashamed."

Oglesby, now of Chaucer House, Severn Road, Halesowen, pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine with intent to supply, possession of a prohibited weapon, drug driving and possession of both cannabis and cocaine.

He was sent to prison and was banned from driving for a year on his release from jail.

Judge Nicholas Cartwright told him: "You were found with drugs on November 27."

"This was fairly substantial street level dealing and dealing in Class A drugs is regarded as such a serious offence that immediate imprisonment is inevitable."

The judge added: "Whilst out on bail for that offence you had so many drugs in your system that you were twice the limit for driving, whilst also having a CS gas canister."

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The start of the Staffs & Worcs Canal at Great Haywood



The old Newbridge Boat Co sign, part of the TTHC exhibition



Henwood Lane, a quiet country road, before the canal came along



Compton Lock, where the canal was started



Aldersley Junction, where the Birmingham Canal Navigations linked

Volunteers engineer First Cut re-enactment

THIS weekend, canal engineer James Brindley will be returning to Compton. Or at least a member of the Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre team, dressed as him will.

It will be part of a re-enactment of the historic start of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal at Compton Lock on Sunday (September 4).

It was in the first week in September 1766, that the first spade went into the ground, the First Cut, near the junction of Compton Road and Henwood Lane, just inside the Wolverhampton boundary. This was to be the first major

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

transport link across the country, and the stretch through Tettenhall to Compton was to be the highest level of the canal, and Compton Lock, the first descent towards the Severn, was to set the width of all subsequent locks.

Brindley had made his name designing the Duke of Bridgewater's canal in Lancashire, and was to head a team building the Trent & Mersey and then the Staffs & Worcs from Stourport, on the Severn, to Great Haywood and the River Trent, opening up the country to Black Country coal and iron goods, via the Birmingham Canal

Navigations which linked to the new canal in 1772 at Aldersley.

This year is also the 300th anniversary of Brindley's birth, but ill-health meant he never saw the revolution in transport he created.

The canals were dug by hand, with shovel and wheelbarrow, and the re-enactment will also be a tribute to those many labourers, those 'navvies', who toiled to build the marvellous engineering feat which is the British canal network.

The re-enactment will take place from 11am at Compton Lock, and 'Mr Brindley' will then lead his team along the towpath of 'his' canal the 800 yards to the Heritage Centre at Tettenhall Station, to unveil an exhibition about 'The First Cut'.



Canal engineer James Brindley

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You can apply online from 1 September 2016

The closing date is 31 October 2016

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Slim Vicky is helping others

"I wanted to live, not just exist", so says super-slimmer Vicky Billingham, who is starting her own Slimming World club in Kingswinford.

She decided it was time to change her life after the simplest of daily tasks would leave her breathless as she tipped the scales at 27st, a size 32.

The 43-year-old mother-of-two decided to bin the takeaways and ditch crisps and cakes for a healthier diet with lots of fruit and veg. She also joined a slimming group for support and achieved her target weight of 10st 4lb and is now a size 12.

"I feel so much younger and fitter now, I feel like I'm living my life," she said.

Her Slimming World meetings will be at Dingle Community Centre in Madeley Road, at 5pm and 7pm from Tuesday.

Seed work a growing success for artist Helen in California

A STOURBRIDGE artist has been invited to exhibit one of her works in a prestigious exhibition in California.

Helen Garbett, aged 54, who recently opened her own studio at the Ruskin Arts and Glass Centre, Amblecote, specialises in creating artworks from natural materials, including petals, leaves, fir cones and dried flowers.

The work accepted for the show in Santa Rosa is called Honesty Spiral and is created from hundreds of seed pods from the lunaria annua plant, known in Britain as Honesty.

The exhibition is part of a massive annual festival which celebrates natural foodstuffs and non-intensive crop production. It is curated by Hudson Valley Seed Library, based in New York State, set up to conserve and produce heirloom garden seeds which are largely ignored by large commercial companies. The library also encourages artists who are inspired by gardens and horticulture.

Helen, who lives in Wordsley, studied at Stourbridge College of Art in the early 1980s and gained a BA degree in fine arts. She spent much of her subsequent career as a social service manager and she continues that work in a

new not-for-profit organisation, called Goodlife, which aims to help people with disabilities and their families.

Goodlife, which covers the West Midlands, was co-founded by Helen and her colleague Bill Laybourne, from Bridgnorth. The enterprise, also based at the Ruskin Centre, has gained financial support from the Polack Settlement Trust, a charitable organisation in Wolverhampton which helps people with learning disabilities live independently.

Helen also runs sessions which provide art instruction to disabled people and their family carers in a bid to improve well-being.



Helen Garbett with seed art

CPR bid to save ex-Villa player

DOCTORS battled in vain for 35 minutes in a bid to save ex-Aston Villa footballer Dalian Atkinson after he was Tasered by police, a coroner was told.

Mr Atkinson was given cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford in the early hours of August 15. Paramedics were called by police after an incident involving the 48-year-old former striker in the Telford street where he grew up.

At the opening of the inquest in Shrewsbury, coroner's officer Julie Hartridge said West Mercia Police officers were called at 1.37am to a 'report of concern for safety' in Meadow Road, Trench. She told coroner John Ellery: "At hospital, following 35 minutes of CPR, he was confirmed deceased."

The death of the retired player, of Holly Road, Little Dawley, is subject to a criminal investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commission. The inquest was adjourned for three months.

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Kick off with a cup classic programme



The programme from the 1931 FA Cup clash

A RARE programme from the 1931 FA Cup final between West Bromwich Albion and Birmingham City is set to go under the hammer.

The programme was offered to Fieldings Auctioneers of Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge, during a valuation day and is expected to fetch between £200 and £300 on Saturday.

The game was Albion's third FA Cup triumph as they defeated Blues 2-1 in the all West Midlands affair at Wembley in front of a crowd of more than 92,000.

It is believed the programme will be particularly attractive to collectors due to its relatively good condition.

Andrew Mayall, from Fieldings, said the programme's age made it interesting.

He said: "With football programmes, pre-war seems to be quite a significant benchmark."

"We get a lot of stuff from the latter part of the 20th century which people have had lying at home but for it to be pre-war it has done pretty well to survive."

The programme has been taped in places but remains in a good state of repair more than 80 years on.

The memento cost six pence in 1931 and is headed 'Final tie of the Football Challenge Cup Competition'. It also contains a large advert for Bovril.

Albion's two goals on the day were scored by club great William 'Ginger' Richardson, who netted more than 200 times during 16 years with the Baggies.

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Learn to play bridge with a club master

A BRIDGE club is opening its doors to teach new members all about the traditional game.

Kingswinford Bridge Club, based at Saint Andrews United Reform Church on Kidderminster Road, Wall Heath, was formed more than 30 years ago but recently numbers have dwindled.

Club chairman Elspeth Burns, an English Bridge Union (EBU) master player, is hosting lessons at £10 for the first five lessons to cover hall rental. Already an experienced trainer, Elspeth has attended a course in teaching Bridge at the EBU in London to ensure the information is up to date.

She said: "Bridge has a reputation of being a complicated game but by learning and following a few simple rules, nearly everyone will be able to play at a reasonable level within a relatively short time."

There will be a free induction session at 7.30pm on Tuesday. Call 07802 473453 or (01384) 375672.

fast the ticket



Motoring on!

Chitty Chitty Bang lands
See Page 21



Busted are back

See Page 21



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Friday, 7.30pm
Robin 2, Bilston
A Swiss all-female band pay tribute to Aussie rockers AC/DC, so hit the Highway To Hell with the Ladies from Hades. Support from 2nd Gear and Live And Let Rock. Visit therobin.co.uk

Paul McCaffrey



Friday, 8pm
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
The Fitz of Laughter Comedy Club celebrates its second year at the Enville Street pub venue with one of BBC3's Impractical Jokers topping the bill. Visit www.facebook.com/fitzoflaughtert/

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Propaganda
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O2 Academy Birmingham,
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Call 0121 622 8250

Wolverhampton Bassline Gathering at Fixxion Warehouse
Tomorrow - Sun,
Wolverhampton, WV1 4LD.
Call 07562 619947

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The Notorious Brothers
Tonight,
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B30 3EL.
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Elvis - Gordon Hendricks & The Passionettes
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Call 01902 552122

Back:N:Black
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WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Bootleg Sixties
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Artrix, Bromsgrove,
B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

The Who
Mon,
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1PA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Rock of Ages
Wed - Thu, £12.50 - £18.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01543 281281

Sticky Fingers
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Eleanor Friedberger
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O2 Academy Birmingham,
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TF2 6EP.
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Bruk Up
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Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
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Jazz Tuesdays
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The Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
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University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
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COMEDY

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The Old Rep Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DY.
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Paul McCaffrey - Fitz of Laughter
Tonight,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Somewhere Under The Rainbow
Tomorrow,
The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre, Birmingham, B2 5NY.
Call 0121 200 1892

THEATRE

The Simon and Garfunkel Story
Tonight,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham,
B5 4DS.
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Sunny Afternoon
Tue - Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Meetings Greetings and Partings
Tonight,
The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre, Birmingham, B2 5NY.
Call 0121 200 1892

The Vicar of Dibley
Tonight - Thu,
Hall Green Little Theatre,
Birmingham, B27 7SA.
Call 0121 707 1874

Joe Longthorne
Tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
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CATS
Mon - Thu,
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ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

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Grand Union, Minerva Works,
Birmingham, B5 5RS.
Call 0121 643 9079

Dementia Cafe
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Soho House, Birmingham,
B18 5LB. Call 0121 554 9122

Turning to See Curator Talk
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Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Closing Bonfire Party for Edible Eastside
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Edible Eastside, Birmingham,
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Wild Storytelling - Lightmoor
Shropshire Wildlife Trust, 193
Abbey Foregate, 01743 284280,
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<https://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/events/2016/06/10/wild-storytelling-lightmoor?instance=0>

Information Lecture: Help and Healing on the Spiritual Path through the teaching of Bruno Groening
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Whittington Countryside and Craft Fair
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See <http://www.whittingtonandfisherwick.org.uk>

'Andrew Downes: A Portrait'
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Birmingham Cathedral, B3 2QB.
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Cheeki Monkeys Pop Up Baby & Children's Market
Tomorrow
Arden Hall, Birmingham,
B36 9PB.
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Croome's Hidden Heritage: Hare Krishna weekend
Tomorrow
Croome, High Green, WR8 9DW.
Call 01905 371006

Free Lantern Making Workshop
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Oriol Davies Gallery, The Park,
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Brockhampton Park, Bringsty,
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Call 01885 488099

Knitting workshop with Dee Hardwicke
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Cellar Tour
Tomorrow,
Erasmus Darwin House, Lichfield,
WS13 7AD.
Call 01543 306260

Newcomen Engine in Steam
Tomorrow - Sun,
The Black Country Living
Museum, Dudley, DY1 4SQ.
Call 01215 579643

Domingos de tardeo
Sun,
El Tablao de Amantia (located in Amantia's basement),
Birmingham, B2 5RS.
Call 01216433647

Get Stuck in at Murlough
Sun,
Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, SY4 4TW.
Call 01743 708123

Great Fire of London Week
Today - Sun,
Blakesley Hall Museum, Birmingham, B25 8RN.
Call 0121 464 2193

Vandal vs Visionary talk
Tue,
Croome, High Green, WR8 9DW.
Call 01905 371006

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Giddy up! Busted are on track again



From left, Matt Willis, Charlie Simpson and James Bourne are back together for a gig at Wolverhampton Racecourse

MATT Willis has a pretty simple requirement of fans at Busted's Wolverhampton Racecourse gig: "We want them to lose their minds."

His band will line-up on Saturday night after a day of racing. Willis and bandmates James Bourne and Charlie Simpson will play for 90 minutes with hits like Year 3000, What I Go To School For, Crashed The Wedding, Air Hostess, and many more. "We've played a few racecourse gigs during the summer," he says. "They

came around at the last minute and we were like 'yeah, cool, book 'em'. We've done a few, the people are always up for a good time. They've been out on the lash all day watching the races. Then they want to see us come on so that they can lose their minds to a rock band. It's great fun."

The story of Busted MK II is, of course, the story of the in-out, in-out, shake-it-all-about manoeuvres of Charlie, meanwhile Matt and James got together with McFly for the mega-successful McBusted.

Matt says: "With McBusted, don't

get me wrong, it was great to be part of it and it was a bit of a laugh but it didn't feel like our band. Busted is where it's at. This is the band that me and James started when we were kids of 16 in our bedrooms."

"Charlie actually said yes to coming back before McBusted happened. But by the time he'd agreed, we'd already booked that tour. We kept in touch to see how he felt over the next year and it went from there. Then we all decided to go in the studio together and once we'd written new songs, it felt great."



Returning to the Hippodrome after starring in panto

Back with a Bang Bang

BIRMINGHAM Hippodrome is motoring into autumn with a revival of family favourite musical Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

The West End blockbuster, based on a story by 007 author Ian Fleming, continues a run of hit shows at the Hippodrome following its bumper summer with Mama Mia!, which ends of Saturday.

The car is the star but the flying automobile is likely to be upstaged by a top-notch cast including Any Dream Will Do winner Lee Mead as Caractacus Potts and Carrie Hope Fletcher from Les Miserables as Truly Scrumptious.

Comic support will come from Phill Jupitus and Claire Sweeney as Baron and Baroness Bomburst, while the creepy Childcatcher will be played by former Jersey Boy Matt Gillet.

Get ready for a colourful spectacular featuring such songs as Hushabye Mountain, Me Ol' Bamboo and Chu-Chu Face and, of course, the famous theme song.

Essex-born Lee Mead first found fame via Sir Andrew Lloyd-Webber's TV talent show to find a new star to take on the title role in the 2007 West End revival of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

He has become one of the West End's most successful leading men with roles in Wicked, Legally Blonde The Musical as well as releasing several albums and enjoying successful concert tours. His is now best known as Lofty Chiltern in BBC TV drama Casualty. He is returning to the Hippodrome after starring as Aladdin in last year's panto.

Soul sister gets in the musical habit

CHART-TOPPING singer Alexandra Burke is coming back to Birmingham in a new version of hit musical comedy Sister Act, directed and choreographed by Strictly's Craig Revel Horwood. Alexandra, who won The X Factor in 2008 and had a hit with Hallelujah, will be praising again as a club singer Deloris Van Cartier, hiding from gangsters in a convent, who adds a little soul into the nuns' choir.

The London-born actress wowed fans as Rachel Marron when The Bodyguard came on tour to Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Sister Act is at the New Alexandra Theatre from September 12 to 17.

It's a walk on the Wilde side for Cathy

MONA Lisa and Band of Gold star Cathy Tyson takes on the role of the formidable Lady Bracknell when a new production of Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest comes to Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

Directed by Nikolai Foster and staged from September 9 to 24, Wilde's comedy of manners exposes the hypocrisies of late Victorian society. Cathy said: "Lady Bracknell is so well known. I've played Ophelia, I've played Cleopatra and lots of other famous characters but people have a really personal view on Lady Bracknell. They quote lines back at you!"

Greg is down for another Civic night

COMEDY fans have another chance to see Shropshire comic Greg Davies, who has added an extra Wolverhampton date on his UK tour but be prepared for a long wait.

The Man Down star is performing a further show at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall, one of two nights at the venue on December 8 and 9, 2017. Spokesman Jonn Penney said: "Tickets are flying out for next year's Greg Davies show, so we're delighted to be adding an extra date."

Tickets are available at www.wolvescivic.co.uk website. Davies was also recently seen in Dave's comedy panel show Taskmaster.

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CHOICE



Aidan Turner

Poldark (BBC1, 9pm)
New series. Ross stands trial for his life, but refuses to make a deal with George to save himself. Francis is consumed with guilt over betraying his cousin and begs for a reconciliation – but rejection drives him to desperate ends. Demelza seeks the aid of a neighbour (John Nettles), whose daughter has caught Unwin's eye – but she seems far more interested in Dwight. Aidan Turner, Eleanor Tomlinson, Ruby Bentall, Caroline Blakiston, Beatrice Edney and Jack Farthing star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.00** Eat Well for Less? (R) **3.00** Points of View. **3.15** Ingenious Animals. (R) **4.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. Reports on harvest time around the UK. Anita Rani picks peppermint to make cocktails, while Matt Baker discovers how harvesting has changed over the years at the Gaddesden Estate, and John Craven gathers cobnuts. Plus, Joe Fowler investigates how many of the farm brands on sale in supermarkets actually come from a farm, and Adam Henry celebrates 40 years of One Man and His Dog. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents from the show from Audley End, Essex, where experts value a sword that played an important role in the end of the American War of Independence, a collection of toilet chains and a silver container that once contained a goat's gallstone believed to have magical powers. The biggest shock of the day comes when Eric Knowles reveals the worth of a set of three vases decorated with fairies. **9.00** Poldark. New series. Ross stands trial for his life, but refuses to make a deal with George to save himself. Francis is consumed with guilt over betraying his cousin and begs for a reconciliation – but rejection drives him to desperate ends. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Room 101 - Extra Storage. Frank Skinner invites Bridget Christie, Greg James and Robert Peston to compete for the chance of getting their pet hats banished. **11.10** Film: *Insomnia*. (2002) A sleep-deprived detective accidentally kills his partner, and the murderer they were hunting sees him do it. Christopher Nolan's thriller, with Al Pacino and Robin Williams. **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.45** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Blues. (R) **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) **1.30** Heir Hunters. (R) **2.15** Flog It! (R) **3.00** Equestrian: Burghley Horse Trials. **5.00** Film: John Carter. (2012) Fantasy adventure, starring Taylor Kitsch. **7.00** New York: America's Busiest City. Ade Adepitan, Anita Rani, Ant Anstead and Dan Snow take a closer look at one of the most complex and powerful cities in the world, focusing on transport links in the first edition. Anita, Ade and Ant head to Grand Central Terminal, joining the daily commute on the iconic Staten Island ferry as well as the subway, suburban railroad and citi-bikes. Dan visits Times Square to see how the 230 LED advertising hoardings are maintained, while Ade takes a ride in a yellow cab, discovering that the business model is under threat from newly created taxi apps. (R) **8.00** A Very British Deterrent. **9.00** Dragons' Den. Peter Jones, Deborah Meaden, Touker Suleyman, Sarah Willingham examine the profit-making potential of more business plans, including an innovative form of nail gel, a toilet-flushing gadget for children, and a parking app from an entrepreneur whose company valuation stuns the panel. Hosted by Evan Davis. **10.00** Fiebag. Claire organises her own surprise birthday party. Fiebag helps her brother-in-law to find a present, and runs into an old friend. **10.30** Murder in Successville. DI Sleet enlists the aid of sports pundit Chris Kamara to investigate the murder of Successville's most famous racehorse, and uncovers a race-fixing conspiracy. **11.00** Imagine: Rio 50 Degrees - Carry on CañiOca. Film-maker Julien Temple explores the cultural history of Rio de Janeiro, seen by many as a tropical paradise but ravaged by poverty and gun crime. (R) **12.45** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.40** Holby City. (R) **2.40** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Scooby. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.35** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.00** Ninjago: Rise of the Snakes. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Chopping Block. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **1.25** Tipping Point. (R) **2.25** Victoria. (R) **3.30** The X Factor. (R) **4.30** World Cup Qualifier Live. Slovakia v England (Kick-off 5.00pm). **7.45** Regional Programme; Weather. **7.45** ITV News; Weather. **8.00** The X Factor. The next stage of the room auditions, as more would-be contestants find themselves face to face with judges Simon Cowell, Sharon Osbourne, Louis Walsh and Nicole Scherzinger in a very personal setting. Dermot O'Leary hosts the show, and is on hand to guide the aspiring singers through the first challenging stage of their road to a recording contract. **9.00** Victoria. King Leopold suggests to Victoria that she consider Prince Albert as a possible consort, a development that results in the young queen being surrounded by suitors seeking her hand in marriage. The young queen remains determined to rule alone, a declaration that leaves her uncle suspicious about her relationship with Melbourne. **10.05** ITV News; Weather. **10.20** World Cup Qualifier Highlights. Action from the latest 2018 World Cup qualifying matches, featuring Slovakia v England, Malta v Scotland, and Czech Republic v Northern Ireland. **11.35** Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights of the opening round of fixtures in English rugby's top-flight competition, including Northampton Saints v Bath, Harlequins v Bristol and Wasps v Exeter Chiefs. **12.35** Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** Motorsport UK. Highlights from Snetterton. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. The latest action. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.

CHANNEL 4

8.00 Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the 14th round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **5.30** Channel 4 News. **6.05** Film: *Toy Story Of TERROR!* (2013) Animated Halloween special, in which the Toy Story characters search for a missing friend at a spooky roadside motel. With the voice of Tom Hanks. **6.30** *Rosie Davis*. Book. David Walliams presents a look at the author's 10 most popular children's books to mark the centenary of his birth. Viewers have the chance to vote for their favourite of the 10 novels featured, which include Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The BFG, The Witches, Matilda and The Twits. Featuring contributions from Steven Spielberg, Julie Walters, Richard Curtis, Mackenzie Crook, Jarvis Cocker, Johnny Vegas, Jessica Hynes and Miriam Margulies. **8.00** *Speed with Guy Martin*. New series. The motorcycle racer competes in the Nevada Open Road Challenge, the fastest road race in the world, in which Highway 318 is closed to allow top of the line supercars to compete in time trials. Guy decides to make the challenge even greater by entering the contest in his Ford Transit van – but unfortunately, a crash has left the vehicle in need of some extensive repair work. He gathers a team of race engineers to rebuild the van and turn it into a racing machine capable of taking on some of the world's fastest cars. **9.30** Film: *The Wolf of Wall Street*. (2013) Premiere. A New York stockbroker rises from unemployment to become one of the richest men in the city's financial elite through an illegal scheme to defraud investors. His wealth brings him an outrageously debauched lifestyle, but comes at a price as the FBI become suspicious of his manipulation of the markets. Fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio. **1.05** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Highlights. **2.10** The World's Weirdest Weather. (R) **3.05** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. (R) **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.10** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** The Fairly OddParents. **10.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.30** Now That's Funny! (R) **12.30** Now That's Funny! (R) **1.30** Film: *Penelope*. (2006) Romantic fantasy, starring Christina Ricci. **3.15** Film: *Paul Blart: Mall Cop*. (2009) Comedy, starring Kevin James. **5.00** Grannies Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **6.00** *Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 2*. Dave Spikely and Ellie Taylor introduce more animal antics, including greedy pigs, terrifying tortoises and an American parrot with a talent for stand-up comedy. (R) **7.00** *Cricknet on 5*. England v Pakistan. Action from the fifth one-day international of the five-match series which took place at The SSE SWALEC. **8.00** *Inside the White House*. Two-part documentary exploring American politics from the perspective of the Washington, DC residence at the heart of US government. (R) **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** *Most Shocking Celebrity Moments*. A countdown of infamous incidents from the 1990s, including Hugh Grant's arrest and OJ Simpson's murder trial. The programme also looks back at Eric Cantona kicking a fan during a match, Jarvis Cocker interrupting Michael Jackson's performance at the Brit awards, and David and Victoria Beckham's lavish wedding. Featuring contributions from Louis Walsh, Shaun Ryder, Bez, Michael Burke, Darren Day, Gail Porter, Tim Vincent and Kerry Katona. **11.55** *Autopsy: The Last Hours of Michael Hutchence*. Richard Shepherd investigates the death of INXS frontman Michael Hutchence, who was found dead with a belt round his neck in his Sydney hotel room in November 1997. (R) **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Hotel Inspector Returns. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 BBC Proms 2016: CBSO Plays Tchaikovsky **6.45** Wild Scotland **9.00** Woolly Mammoth: Secrets from the Ice **10.00** Storyville: My Nazi Legacy **11.30** The Most Courageous Raid of WWII **12.30** The Beginning and End of the Universe **1.30** The Search for Life: The Drake Equation **2.30** After Life: The Strange Science of Decay **4.00** Close **ITV2**
12.15 The X Factor **1.15** The Xtra Factor Live **2.15** Funnies Ever You've Been Framed! Gold **3.15** Film: *Looney Tunes: Back in Action* (2003) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20** Film: *Looney Tunes: Back in Action* (2003) **5.05** Film: *Hotel for Dogs* (2009) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** Film: *Hotel for Dogs* (2009) **7.05** Film: *Jack and Jill* (2011) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10** Film: *Jack and Jill* (2011) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** Bordertown **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
11.00 Lewis **1.00** Film: *Columbo: Agenda for Murder* (1990) **3.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** The Murder of Sadie Hartley **10.35** Film: *Something's Gotta Give* (2003) **11.35** FYI Daily **11.40** Film: *Something's Gotta Give* (2003) **1.05** Film: *The Blood of Others* (1958) **3.35** May the Best Horse Win **5.20** Rising Damp **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**
12.00 Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **1.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain Live. **4.00** World Cup Goalkeepers **4.15** Pawn Stars **4.45** Film: *Tobruk* (1967) **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55** Film: *Tobruk* (1967) **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain **9.00** Premiership Rugby Union **10.00** Film: *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (2011) **1.15** FYI Daily **11.15** Film: *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (2011) **1.15** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **2.10** Hell on Wheels **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
12.00 Coach Trip: Road to Ibiza **2.35** The Goldbergs **3.30** Film: *Hugo* (2011) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **11.00** Gogglebox **1.10** Rude Tube: Rude Tubes **2.15** Containment **Film4**
11.00 The Man from Colorado (1948) **1.00** Bridge to Terabithia (2007) **3.00** Aliens in the Attic (2009) **4.55** Moonrise Kingdom (2012) **6.45** Grease **2** (1982) **9.00** The Bourne Legacy (2012)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Rags to Riches: Ultimate Life, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Jason Stevens is busy running his grandfather's foundation, while also having to fend off lawsuits from his extended family and lament a fleeing lover. When an inherited journal magically sends him back to 1941, it provides an unparalleled opportunity for him to witness the true rags-to-riches story of his late grandfather. Drama, starring Logan Bartholomew and Peter Fonda. (2013)

TUESDAY

Truth and Lies, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Two former best friends and current enemies suspect each other of sending anonymous messages that threaten to expose their secrets. However, when they realise neither are behind it, the teenagers team up to investigate the source. Drama, starring Dina Meyer, Emily Tennant and Keenan Tracey. (2015)



Possession, Thursday, BBC1, 11.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Everything or Nothing: The Untold Story of James Bond, ITV, 10.40pm
Documentary examining the making of the James Bond films, featuring contributions from cast and crew members of the 26 movies made over the past 50 years, including 007 actors Daniel Craig, George Lazenby, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton and Pierce Brosnan. (2012)

THURSDAY

Possession, BBC1, 11.30pm
Rival academics get embroiled in the hunt for proof that Victorian poets Randolph Henry Ash and Christabel LaMotte were having an affair – but their rivalry is tempered by a seemingly irresistible attraction between them. Drama from playwright Neil LaBute, starring Gwyneth Paltrow. (2002)

FRIDAY

Doc Hollywood, ITV, 10.45pm
An arrogant doctor on his way to California causes an accident in a rural South Carolina town and is sentenced to community service at the local hospital. Initially desperate to leave, he gradually comes to appreciate a slower pace of life. Comedy, starring Michael J Fox. (1991)

Looking to make the nation proud once again

The 2016 Olympic Games will live long in the memory, particularly for Team GB's athletes who achieved their highest medal haul for 108 years – even surpassing the extraordinary home Games in London 2012. And now it's time for Britain's Paralympians to do the business in Brazil.

Tonight, host Clare Balding is back, along with The Last Leg's Adam Hills, at the famous Maracana Stadium in Rio for what promises to be a spectacular ceremony to mark the start of the 15th Paralympic Games.

Expect a Brazilian carnival atmosphere to accompany the athletes' parade, which will be the first chance to catch a glimpse of the Team GB athletes who are hoping to top the 120 medals they won at London 2012.

The team is packed full of reigning Paralympic, world and European champions, and expectations are high – can the athletes build on the 27 golds won by Team GB in Rio a few weeks ago? Tonight, Balding and Hills will be joined by a number of British medal prospects.

Swimmer Ellie Simmonds will be competing at her third Paralympics, having won two gold medals at Beijing in 2008, then adding two more plus a silver and bronze in 2012.

Meanwhile, 23-year-old world record breaking wheelchair racer 'Hurricane' Hannah Cockroft, has been dominant in the T34 class for years and will also be looking to add to her two golds from London.

Johnny Peacock nearly died from meningitis aged five, but was a Paralympic gold medalist at 18. Now the sprinter has his sights firmly set on retaining his 100m title in Rio.

David Weir tried all manner of sports before falling for wheelchair racing.

Now the 'Weirwolf' will be attending his fifth Games, having made his debut in Atlanta in 1996.

He won Britain's only track and field golds in Beijing before his four golds in London.

And finally there's cycling supremo and former swimmer Sarah Storey, Great Britain's most decorated female Paralympian, having won 11 Gold,

eight Silver and three Bronze medals across six Paralympic Games.

But aside from these more well known athletes, Balding and Hills will also be profiling several up and coming stars ready to shine for Team GB in Rio.

Libby Clegg recently broke the world record in the T11 200m at the Anniversary Games last year, and Kadeena Cox will be competing in both the cycling and the athletics this year.

Lee Pearson will be looking to add to his 10-gold medal haul in the equestrian, alongside 67-year-old five-time gold medalist Anne Dunham.

Meanwhile, Gordon Reid – who won the first ever Wimbledon men's wheelchair singles and doubles this year – will be competing in the tennis along with doubles partner Alfie Hewett.

Unfortunately, the build up to these Games has been plagued with problems. However, as with the Olympics, the organisers will hope that once the action does get under way, the athletes will provide the same amount of entertainment and inspiration as they did in 2012.



Paralympics 2016: Opening Ceremony Live, Wednesday, Channel 4, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Cold Feet
ITV, 9pm

Where would the careers of John Thomson, James Nesbitt, Fay Ripley, Hermione Norris and Robert Bathurst be without Cold Feet? All of them owe the much-loved comedy drama a debt of gratitude because it turned them into major small screen stars. And that's perhaps why they agreed to reassemble for this reunion of their characters, 13 years after the original run came to an end. This run, which is written by the show's creator, Mike Bullen, will reveal what has happened to Adam, who was left to raise his son Matthew alone following the death of his soulmate Rachel, whether Pete and Jenny lived happily ever after, and what became of David and Karen, who had gone their separate ways.

TUESDAY

Motherland
BBC2, 10pm

The latest comedy pilot from the New on Two season looks at the funny side of being a parent and follows characters navigating the trials and traumas of middle-class motherhood. We meet the Alpha Mums' headed by Amanda (Lucy Punch) who is very much the queen bee – everything in her life

is organised, clean and sparkly. At the other end of the spectrum there is Liz (Diane Morgan) who's totally chaotic and feels the kids should enjoy free expression. Somewhere in the middle is Julia (Anna Maxwell-Martin), who, when she forgets it's the school holidays, realises her organisational skills are nowhere near the level of the Alpha Mums'. Also in the mix is Kevin (Paul Ready Utopia) – a stay-at-home dad, who rather than fighting against that, is embracing it with gusto – to the irritation of the others.

WEDNESDAY

The Great British Bake Off
BBC1, 8pm

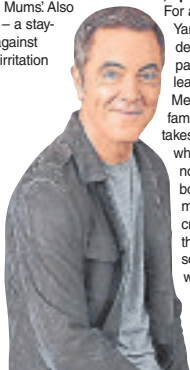
As bread week arrives, the remaining home-bakers must face three tough tasks set by Paul Hollywood. For the signature bake, the contestants make a sweet dough with a twist, and in the technical they must face baking without an oven. Finally, for the showstopper, they are challenged to use three different flours to create a huge centrepiece and impress judges Paul and Mary. Meanwhile, Mel heads to Germany to find out how a baker and a few hundred

dumplings saved his small town from the ravages of 30 years of war.

THURSDAY

Inside Scotland Yard with Trevor McDonald
ITV, 9pm

For almost 200 years, the name Scotland Yard has been synonymous with detective work, and now in this two-part documentary, Trevor McDonald is learning more about the history of the Metropolitan Police Service's world-famous headquarters. It's a quest that takes in the building's Crime Museum, which includes exhibits (such as nooses, murder weapons and even body parts) from some of the Met's most famous cases. It wasn't just the criminals who were up to no good though, as Trevor takes a look at some early police disciplinary records, which show that in the Met's first six months, nearly half the officers were dismissed – drunkenness was the most common cause, but one early bobby got the boot for milking a cow while on duty.



Cold Feet, Monday, ITV, 9pm

FRIDAY

Countrywise: Guide to Britain
ITV, 8pm

New series. Ben Fogle and Liz Bonnin travel the length and breadth of Britain to discover the countryside's hidden gems, natural wonders and great escapes. Ben heads out on a tour of the stunning Isles of Scilly with his guide Colin Taylor, the police sergeant in charge of this little part of the world, while Liz Bonnin is on the Dorset coast on to view some of the millions of birds that travel thousands of miles to reach these shores each spring.

Would I Lie to You?

BBC1, 8.30pm

Rob Brydon presents as regular team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack are joined by Nadiya Hussain, the winner of last year's The Great British Bake Off who is fresh from her own two-part documentary The Chronicles of Nadiya, as well as comic and actor Michael Smiley, and comedians Bob Mortimer and Diane Morgan. As usual, the participants aim to hoodwink their opponents with absurd facts and plausible lies about themselves in a bid to secure a team victory and the dubious honour of being dubbed the liar of the week.

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MAGAZINE

WHAT THE BUTLER SAW

by Joe Orton

Dr. Prentice is a psychiatrist who believes that the best way to interview a girl for a job is to seduce her. Geraldine does her best to comply. Meanwhile Mrs Prentice has seduced a page boy and brings him home just as a state medical inspector pays a visit. Chaos ensues, with disappearances, disguises, cross dressing and an unlikely police officer, in this comedy with a difference!

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by Debbie Isitt

Kenneth leaves his wife, Hilary, for a younger woman only to discover she can't cook. When Hilary invites the two of them to dinner, Kenneth accepts, unaware of what might be on the menu! A cordon bleu play for those who like their comedy rich and black

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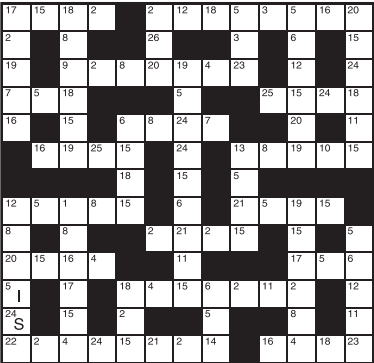
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BRAIN GYM No.393

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
B N T Y D E M C A P G O J
U R Q V F I L X S K W Z H

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

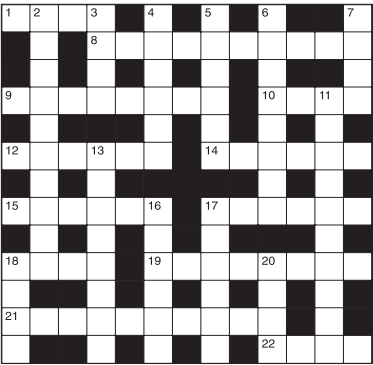
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Worry about ornamental work (4)
- 8. Wipe out an old boy who can read (10)
- 9. Delightful couple initially doing damage (8)
- 10. Riddle is put back a foot (4)
- 12. Stable in modern terms? (6)
- 14. Guardian of the southern gate (6)
- 15. Concurred it was a vice (6)
- 17. Red and repaired (6)
- 18. Little Leonard's glass (4)
- 19. 100 is too old to get insurance risk (8)
- 21. The levy means I am to gain status (10)
- 22. Retain a stronghold (4)

Down

- 2. The correct point of view is part square (5,5)
- 3. Excursion bound for ancient city (4)
- 4. Fish is one in position (6)
- 5. In which an actor's career is marked? (6)
- 6. Bars for him are not to drink in (8)
- 7. Got the texture of the material (4)
- 11. It fights burning issues, of course (4,6)
- 13. Dislike of one rendering (8)
- 16. Cede it mistakenly in dishonesty (6)
- 17. Being bare, dived with nothing on recklessly (6)
- 18. Placed face up (4)
- 20. This class is wild (4)



Quick Clues:

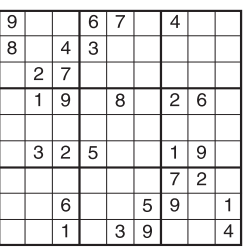
Across

- 1. Overlook (4)
- 8. Superiority (10)
- 9. Clandestine (4-4)
- 10. Probability (4)
- 12. Dwarf (6)
- 14. Risky (6)
- 15. Store (6)
- 17. Rejoinder (6)
- 18. Dread (4)
- 19. Divide (8)
- 21. Methodical (10)
- 22. Monarch (4)

Down

- 2. Nullify (10)
- 3. Look for (4)
- 4. Address (6)
- 5. Minister (6)
- 6. Echoing (8)
- 7. Dregs (4)
- 11. Adornment (10)
- 13. Produce (8)
- 16. Summary (6)
- 17. Esteem (6)
- 18. Fixed (4)
- 20. Boulder (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Icons; 8 Leopard; 9 Turns in; 10 Ridge; 12 Right way up; 15 Shake hands; 18 Defer; 19 Tunisia; 21 Grimace; 22 Swede. Down: 1 Distressed; 2 Worry; 3 Isis; 4 Clinch; 5 Borrowed; 6 Maydays; 11 Esplanades; 13 Ice-cream; 14 Mayfair; 16 Arnhem; 17 Ashes; 20 Nest. QUICK - Across: 7 Oudor; 8 Impress; 9 Shorten; 10 Chill; 12 Court of law; 15 Liveliness; 18 Sprig; 19 Trachea; 21 Trainer; 22 Ledge. Down: 1 Constables; 2 Motor; 3 Brat; 4 Winner; 5 Spacious; 6 Legible; 11 Law-breaker; 13 Obliging; 14 Overran; 16 Nature; 17 Chide; 20 Able.

Quiz

- 1. Which prefix denotes one thousand millionth part?
- 2. In which country is the town of Hamelin, famous for the Pied Piper legend?
- 3. What can a corundum gem of any colour but red be called?
- 4. How is the viral disease rubella better known?
- 5. Of which mountains is Crete de la Neige the highest?

- 6. Which tree is also called cob?
- 7. Who played Annie Sugden in Emmerdale?
- 8. Which novelist was secretary to the Maharajah of Dewas in 1921?
- 9. Which tree has English, white and slippery varieties?
- 10. What is sorghum?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Pheasant; 2 Wet Wet Wet;

3 Cygnus; 4 Nimes; 5 Naomi Campbell;

6 St Marylebone; 7 Generator; 8 Nashville;

9 Brendan Barber; 10 A bird.

Niner: CENSORIAL

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

73456871 gives a game,
132287 gives a second game,
9463 gives a third game.



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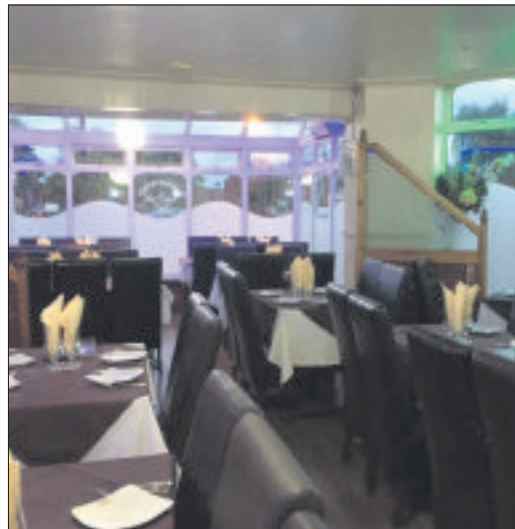
No question, this is tasty



Sanam Balti claims to be Cannock's first balti house



Owner Akeel presents a cheque for £250 to a Macmillan representative



Plenty of room and ideal for a romantic meal or family dining

IT'S not often I venture out for dinner on a work night, but on one Wednesday evening, the Sanam Balti just seemed so inviting.

The restaurant, in Cannock Road, Chadsmoor, professes to be Cannock's first balti house, having opened its doors in 1992.

It has recently branched out into quiz nights, with its inaugural event raising £250

for Macmillan Cancer Support. My daughter and I were instantly welcomed with a warm smile and ushered to our table in the light and well-decorated premises.

It's a large building, but with a great ambience and ideal for a romantic meal or family dining. Large parties can be catered for with a separate room upstairs.

The menu is varied and it was refreshing to see many new dishes. My daughter is vegetarian, but was well provided for. We both regularly eat Indian food so it was refreshing to

Meal review by Debbie Tavner

see that there was a lot to choose from on the vegetarian menu.

Rarely have I seen in Indian restaurants a children's menu, but here was one at the Sanam, of both English and Indian food, enabling children to enjoy a night out with their families.

Akeel, the owner, was quick to point out that children eat free on a Sunday. The restaurant

isn't licensed to serve alcohol, but diners are free to take in their own drinks.

After poppadums, we tried starters, with a vegetable platter for my daughter, made up of a vegetable samosa, onion bhaji and a mushroom bhaji and an unusual-looking Ghurka kebab, taken from the additional menu for myself. Very tasty they both were, too.

I was already feeling slightly full before our mains, my daughter opting for a traditional mushroom korma, while I plumped for a tandoori king prawn and salad. These came with

side dishes of pilau rice and Bombay potatoes – which to my mind were the best potatoes I have tasted in an Indian restaurant and were the perfect accompaniment.

A wide selection of desserts are available should you have space. But we, alas, didn't.

To dine in on a Monday and a Tuesday, poppadums, a main course and sundry from a set menu is just £8.85. A popular Wednesday take-away offer for £9.95.

To book a table at the Sanam, call 01543 462105.

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Spacious and immaculately presented family home

A spacious and immaculately presented detached family home in Moorfoot Avenue, Halesowen, lies on the popular Squirrels estate.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £335,000. It briefly comprises an entrance hallway, spacious lounge, dining kitchen, study, impressive conservatory, five bedrooms, master with en suite and a family bathroom.

HALESOWEN
£335,000

The property further benefits from having an attractive and private rear garden, a garage, a driveway, gas central heating and double glazing. The entrance hall has wood-effect flooring. The lounge has a bay window and wood-effect laminate

flooring. The breakfast kitchen is fitted with a range of wall and base units with roll edge work surfaces over incorporating a sink, drainer and mixer tap, integrated double electric oven, hob, dishwasher, automatic washing machine and fridge freezer.

Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 5856667 or visit www.hickshadley.com

Modern two-bedroomed apartment is well presented

SEDGLEY

£120,000

>>>>

Beautifully presented, this lovely modern two-bedroomed apartment in Dormston Lodge, Sedgley lies in the heart of the town centre.

It is for sale through Swinscoes at £120,000.

Sedgley town centre boasts excellent local amenities including retail shops and restaurants. This impressive property offers a spacious open plan layout with a secure entry into a communal entrance, an open plan style lounge/diner and a fitted kitchen area with space for appliances. There are two good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Contact Swinscoes on 01902 672274 or visit www.swinscoes.co.uk



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HALESOWEN, Summerfields Avenue£825 pcm+Fees
A superb 3 bedroom refurbished semi-detached house comprising of: entrance hall, 2 reception rooms, beautiful kitchen, 2 double & 1 single bedrooms, house bathroom with separate shower, rear garden & driveway for 1 car and a garage, this family home offers a very long rental opportunity. EPC: D



DUDLEY, Lister Road £775 pcm+Fees
A superbly presented 3 bedroom detached traditional house situated in a popular well established neighborhood close to excellent local amenities and with easy access to transport links. This property briefly comprises of: 2 good size lounges, modern fitted kitchen/utility area with wc, 3 good sized bedrooms, family bathroom, large private rear garden. Garage & driveway parking. EPC: TBC



AMBLESCOTE, High Street £775 pcm+Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent a home on a select development 'Crystal Gardens'. This home features a spacious lounge/dining area, well appointed kitchen, downstairs WC, the 1st floor has 2 bedrooms & a family bathroom & on the 2nd floor there is a master bedroom with a large en-suite, 2 allocated parking spaces, front & rear gardens. This property will not be available for long. Minimum contract 12 months. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Wassell Road£675 pcm+Fees
A large unfurnished semi-detached house in central Halesowen which features: entrance porch, lounge, fully fitted kitchen, covered side entrance, private rear garden, 3 good size bedrooms, large bathroom with shower over bath, garage & driveway. Also benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: D



BIRMINGHAM, Watermarque£625 pcm+Fees
Tastefully presented and well proportioned studio apartment set in the prestigious Watermarque development. This newly decorated 4th floor property is fully furnished and comprises: Living room/bedroom with wardrobe space, kitchen with appliances, large bathroom with shower, 24 hour concierge service, 2 lifts, gym, and not far from the NIA, ICC and Symphony hall. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Wroxley House£625 pcm+Fees
Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb luxury 1st floor apartment available immediately. Offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



BLACKHEATH, Long Lane £575 pcm+Fees
A well presented two bedroom mid terrace property close to railway & bus links. This modern home benefits from double glazing and briefly comprises: hallway, spacious lounge, kitchen, conservatory, 2 bedrooms, bathroom suite & shower over bath, electric storage heaters, front & rear garden and parking to the rear of the property. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Holt Road £575 pcm+Fees
Minutes away from Rowley Regis Train Station, not far from the M5 J2 and Blackheath Town Centre. A nicely presented refurbished mid terrace home. Featuring 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, 2 spacious reception rooms, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, downstairs bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, small rear garden, on road parking. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Beaumont Road£575 pcm+Fees
Ideally located in Blackheath for local amenities, train station close by and the M5. This large 2 double bedroom and terraced house features 2 reception rooms with 1 reception having side flooring and a working wood burner, fitted kitchen, utility room with washing machine, 2 double bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, court yard rear garden, on road parking and off road parking available for 1 car plus garage (accessed from Clifton Road). EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Bethesda Gardens£550 pcm+Fees
Located on this new build estate is this modern ground floor apartment, coming unfurnished, briefly comprising of: 2 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, modern bathroom with shower, fitted kitchen with white goods, open plan spacious lounge, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. A must view property. EPC: G



WORDSLEY, Wordsley Court£535 pcm+Fees
1st floor fully refurbished large apartment within walking distance of Wordsley Green & King George V park. Featuring lovely lounge, 2 generous size double bedrooms, fitted kitchen, shower room, secure parking to rear of property. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Delingpole Walk£525 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished mid mews house, in a well sought after location, briefly comprising of: gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, downstairs WC, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, 2 allocated parking spaces. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Tenterfields £495 pcm+Fees
A superb 1st floor flat in central Halesowen with parking space. This lovely apartment features a lovely lounge, fitted kitchen (no white goods), bathroom with shower, double bedroom, gas central heating, communal garden. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£485 pcm+Fees
This lovely and well kept unfurnished 2nd floor flat briefly features 2 bedrooms, electric storage heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen with some appliances, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space, close to local shops and Old Hill Train Station. EPC: G



ROWLEY REGIS, Winchester Close£475 pcm+Fees
A well presented, unfurnished ground floor apartment, close to the M5 J2. This apartment features 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, bathroom with shower, parking space and parking area for visitors, communal gardens. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Alwin Road £450 pcm+Fees
A 1 bedroom ground floor flat being double glazed with electric heating. The accommodation, which has been refurbished briefly comprises a reception hall, lounge, kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom, communal gardens and parking. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, King Street£440 pcm+Fees
Located in the heart of Old Hill. Ideally situated for local shops, buses and train links is this unfurnished 1st floor modern apartment which comprises of 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with a small fridge, spacious lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Cobham Road£425 pcm+Fees
A 1 bedroom 1st floor apartment within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. Offering generous accommodation including: good size lounge, kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, double glazing, on road parking, unfurnished. EPC: G



STOURBRIDGE, Stambermill House£425 pcm+Fees
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PENSNETT, St Marks Court£395 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished ground floor flat, close to Russells Hall Hospital, briefly comprising of: electric storage heating, living room, fitted kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom with shower, communal garden, allocated parking space. EPC: TBC



NETHERTON, St Georges Road£395 pcm+Fees
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Index

- 1 Family
- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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6 Property

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The Borough Council of Sandwell (Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury between Freeman Road and the south side of Kier Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 08/11/16, effective from 06/09/16. Traffic will be diverted via Manor Road, Freeman Road and vice-versa. Purpose – works to repair a collapsed sewer by Arney (on behalf of Severn Trent Water).

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Wrights Lane, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Wrights Lane, Cradley Heath between Cherry Orchard and the boundary of Temple Meadow Primary School. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 07/10/16, effective from 06/09/16. Traffic will be diverted via Highgate Street, Heathfield Way, Station Road and vice-versa. Purpose – gas main replacement works and service connections by Balfour Beatty (on behalf of National Grid Gas).

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Car redefines crossover

By John Griffiths

If you're a relatively small player in a fierce game against the big boys of the motor industry, perhaps your best bet is to find a gap in the market and fill it.

That's what SsangYong has done with its largest offering, the Tourismo, which has much in common (size apart) with its better known Korando stablemate.

It's a diesel-powered seven-seater, with the option of four wheel drive and automatic transmission, and even the top of the range model costs less than £25,000: there's not a lot more out there with the same credentials.

Plus it comes with the advantage of a five years, unlimited mileage, warranty.

The new model benefits from the Korean company's new 2.2 litre, 178PS mated to a slick Mercedes-Benz seven-speed auto transmission, compared to its predecessor's 2.0 litres, 155PS and five speed box. This alone has transformed the car, making it smoother and more driveable, for the sort of relaxed progress you'd expect of for a family on tour, as the name suggests.

The interior is marked out by its intelligent seating arrangement, although there is a lot of hard plastic surfaces which reflect cost savings. On the up side, the plastic could be an advantage if you're transporting young children or pets and want something that wipes down easily.

But it's the 2-2-3 seating layout which for me sets the Tourismo apart from many other seven-seaters. The front pair are American-style 'captain's chairs', mirrored by the second row pair which are separated by an

'aisle' which gives easier access to the rear bench of three seats.

It also means you can put your tallest passenger in the centre rear seat, as he/she will have plenty of room to stretch their legs along the centre aisle. The rear bench is removable, so if necessary you can increase the already generous 875 litres of boot space to a cavernous 3,146 – more than some vans. Unusually long items of cargo can be slotted in along the central aisle.

The top of the range ELX model tested costs £25,955, although the Tourismo range starts at some £6,000 less. The optional Kenwood satnav with central colour touch screen added £900 to the basic price tag, though.

The main instrument cluster, although large and clear, is centrally mounted which, at least during my test drive, isn't as intuitive in use as a more traditional behind the steering wheel arrangement.

The Tourismo rides smoothly and is reasonably dynamic for a large vehicle, although few buyers of this big cruiser will be attempting sports car cornering with it.

The seven speed auto transmission is highly responsive and smooth, with gear changes hardly noticeable. You can change manually using a thumb switch on the gear lever, which is at least as good, if not a better solution, that the now de rigueur flappy paddles.

The American-style, foot-operated parking brake is something else you get used to.

Upholstery in the ELX is leather clad, and an automatic air conditioning system with ceiling vents and fan controls ensures all passengers get the benefit.

All Tourismos get full connectivity through the audio system, electric windows and door mirrors, and tinted glass.



Big estate and people carrier all in one rather stylish shape – not as boxy as some people carriers or as square and chunky as some SUVs

Further up the range SsangYong adds leather upholstery, an electrically adjustable driver's seat, cruise control and parking sensors. The flagship ELX also gets automatic headlamps and wipers, 17-inch alloys and solar controlled glass.

It is also the model which comes with selectable four wheel drive and (increasingly unusual even in the SUV world) a low range transmission, ideal for those who tow a large caravan or horsebox (the braked trailer limit is 2,000kg).

The Tourismo's new engine has an official fuel average of 36.2mpg with auto-

matic transmission, which translates into a CO2 rating of 205g/km. Figures for the manual are better at 39.2mpg and 189g/km.

There's a lot of talk in the car world about 'crossovers', vehicles capable of fulfilling more than one role. The Tourismo redefines the term as a 4x4, big estate and people carrier all in one rather stylish shape – not as boxy as some people carriers or as square and chunky as some SUVs.

It also undercuts them, in some cases by thousands of pounds, so if it fits your needs it's worth a look.



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Bold new look for Kia's SUV Sorento

By James Fosdsdyke

Kia's flagship SUV has a bold new look, but can it compete with its established (and very popular) 4x4 rivals?

The immediately obvious change is the curvy new body, but that's not the only alteration Kia has made to its flagship SUV. Under the skin, there's an all-new platform with a stronger structure, an upgraded engine range, improved steering and revised suspension.

Inside, the cabin has a more premium feel and there's some pretty impressive equipment hiding in there too.

The trade-off for all these improvements, though, is a slight price increase – around 5 per cent to be exact. So has the Sorento lost its key selling point, or is it merely an even more capable alternative to the seven-seat SUV establishment?

As well as being longer, wider and lower than its predecessor, the new Sorento looks far beefier than the old car, not to mention more curvaceous. The bluff front end is adorned with a rather turgid version of the tiger-nose grille that comes across so aggressively on the Cee'd, and the rounded lights give a distinctly un-Kia-like doe-eyed look.

Nevertheless, it's actually quite an attractive-looking beast, albeit in a cuddly kind of way. It certainly won't look out of place in the school car park sitting alongside the XC90s, Outlanders and Q5s of this world.

Because the new Sorento is bigger than its forebear, interior space has greatly improved. In the 'standard' five-seat configuration, the 605-litre boot will be more than enough for a family's holiday luggage or ferrying kids' sports kit to and from practice sessions.

Pop the two rear seats up to create a seven-seater, though, and that space is compressed to 142 litres, which sounds like more than it is. You'd struggle to fit a small suitcase in there.

The upside of that is that you get seven seats capable of carrying adults, albeit too cramped to be considered comfortable. Kids, however, will likely find they have plenty of room.

Refined

Like most SUVs of this size, the Sorento hardly handles like a sports car, but it's refined, comfortable and generally a very pleasant steer. Vigorous cornering results in quite a lot of body roll, but it's no worse than, say, a Mitsubishi Outlander. The advantage of that roll, however, is a smooth ride – the undulations are soaked up with minimum fuss.

The 2.2-litre engine feels chunky enough to ensure progress is adequate, but it never feels anything like fast. More importantly, though, it's refined. Cruising along the motorway at a steady 70 won't necessitate an increase in stereo volume or raised voices, and while there's a mild grumble when you're setting off, it isn't especially intrusive.

Four-wheel drive is standard across the range, so traversing muddy fields won't be a problem, but Kia is well aware that the Sorento is more likely to be seen on the school run than a green lane, so a lack of ground clearance means the off-road performance is acceptable, rather than impressive.

It's efficient, though, returning 46.3mpg on the combined cycle and 41mpg on test. The 161g/km carbon dioxide emissions aren't bad either, and they keep tax relatively low for both private and business customers.

Value has traditionally been one of Kia's big selling points, and the Sorento's £28,795 starting price compares favourably with the likes of the less spacious Land Rover Discovery Sport. Towards the top of the range, though, the Kia seems to lose its price advantage. The upper-mid-range '3' model we tested came in at almost £36,000, while top-spec '4' variants get an asking price of almost £41,000. That's only £5,000 cheaper than the cheapest version of the larger and more prestigious Land Rover Discovery.

That said, the Kia does feel almost as premium as the ageing Discovery. The cabin plastics are exemplary, and the build quality seems to be pretty good too. There's even plenty of equipment, with our test car getting leather seats, satellite navigation, two-zone air conditioning, 18-inch alloys, heated seats front and rear, a heated steering wheel... The list goes on and on.



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Coach Mick Mielczarek and athletes at the Halesowen club



Falan Priest, aged 12,



Coach Ian Priest puts Billy Papworth and George Lamb, both aged 10, through their paces



Young club member Lee Wright, aged 16, practises the javelin

Athletics club is on the right track for success

HALESOWEN Athletic Club can look back on a rich and proud history and, judging by the amount of young talent on the club's books, the future is shaping up nicely as well.

The next generation of athletes are making impressive progress under the watchful eye of a knowledgeable coaching set-up and dedicated committee.

The whole operation is headed by chairman Rob Weaver, who is keen to add a new chapter to the growing success story.

The club was founded in 1922 by their most famous son Jack Price, who represented Great Britain in the 1908 London Olympic marathon – the first time the race was staged over 26 miles and 385 yards.

He continued to be involved as a coach at Halesowen Athletics & Cycling Club, as it became known, until the 1940s, by which time the club was established at its current home, the Manor Abbey Stadium on Manor Way.

Honour

Price's contribution was officially recognised recently when a plaque in his memory was unveiled in Halesowen town centre and the entrance to the club was renamed in his honour.

But having witnessed a fitting nod to the past, Weaver and the 15-strong committee are determined to drive the club forward and increase their 400-plus membership.

The club participates in a number of leagues including the Birmingham and District Cross Country League, West Midlands Young Athletes Cross Country League, Heart of England Young Athletes League and were promoted to the Premier Division of the Youth Development League for this year's track and

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Nick Elwell

"It's a really vibrant club with lots of different age groups. The atmosphere is really good."

field season. "It's a really vibrant club with lots of different age groups," said Weaver.

"It's one of the few places where there is a mix of people of different ages and from different backgrounds. The atmosphere is really good."

"One of the things I would like us to do is bridge the gap between the youngsters and the club stalwarts."

"We have a thriving junior section and then the older members and stalwarts from 35-40 upwards. "It's the late 20 and early 30s area where we would like to get more people."

While Weaver is seeking to increase adult membership, there is an endless supply of young talent on the club's books.

They include the Oliarnyk sisters – 14-year-old pentathlete Iris and sprinter Josie, 16 – sprinter Charles Hilliard and 400m runner Joe Rogers.

"We have a lot of talented youngsters," added Weaver. "Joe represented England at under-18 level last year at 400m and Charles, Iris and Josie all won medals at the England national indoor championships in Sheffield in February."

Under-15 athlete Tristan Dunn is another promising youngster having been ranked first in the UK last

year in both the hammer and shot. The recent cross country season saw Halesowen's under-17 girls team take the title with Lily Higgins winning the league series. Halesowen as a whole finished fifth out of the 21 teams that take part across the four age groups.

"We are very pro-active in terms of identifying talent and we also have good links with the local schools," said Weaver.

"We run a Saturday club for youngsters up to the age of 13. They can just come and sample various events without specialising too early. It's a pathway into the club without being competitive."

"If they show any promise then they can go along on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday night or whatever and have specialised coaching for the event they are good at. We have good coaches here and a wide range of coaches."

Record

But the success is not confined to the youngsters.

Alan Smallwood competes in the over-70 race-walking events and in 1993 he set an all-time record in the over-50s age category in the 3000m (13.06) which still stands today.

Marc Turner, who now races in the over-40s age category, has been running alongside the best in the UK for a number of years and won a silver medal in the 800m at last year's World Masters.

"One of the big things about the club is that you don't have to be a competitive runner," Weaver said. "We deal with the elite end of athletics, but also welcome the mass participation runners who just want to get fit and don't want to compete."

"We are not an elite club. Some people might feel it's a bit intimidating to join a club, but it's not. "If they take the courage to come down they will be made more than welcome."

To join the club, contact Rob Weaver on 07792 244614.



Coaches Mick Mielczarek and Matt Allen with Emily Fitzpatrick, aged 15, Emily Morris 15 and Ilene Braham, 12



Ladies seniors captain: Anna Cosimetti, with, from left, Sarah Smith, Sam Morton, Sally Spencer, Caroline Lambert

Sport

Off the starting blocks and aiming for track triumphs

Page 35



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It's time to get busy for Old Hales

OLD Halesonians Rugby Club's season is about to begin and things are starting to get busy at Wassel Grove.

The first team is already showing that pre-season training is paying off with some impressive warm up matches.

Also this season marks a first for the club with the introduction of a dedicated girls section, with teams at under 13 and under 15 age groups. The club has always proudly supported girls participation in mixed teams from under 4s to under 12s and are excited to be able to continue to support the girls and help them progress through the sport.

Old Halesonians RFC Minors, Minis and Juniors will be having their start of season registration on Sunday at 10am. For further information go to www.oldsalesrfc.co.uk website

Dudley Kingswinford lost their last warm up game 7-10 to visitors Bridgnorth on the scoreboard but it was one of those pre-season friendlies that the scoreboard is not perhaps the best guide to which team actually got the most from the game.

With Bridgnorth 0-10 ahead 10-0, DK's defence tightened to prevent the Shropshire side extending their lead, including a magnificent covering tackle by Nic Adams.

With the game entering the final ten minutes, Bridgnorth's no5 was yellow carded and during the sin bin period DK's Danny Hawkins made the most of the gap in defence to score a try and Duncan Tomkins added the conversion.

Stourbridge's final pre-season friendly, beaten 27-0 at Thame-based Chinnor will have given director of rugby Neil Mitchell insight into his selection options for Saturday's opener against South Leicester (Stourton Park, 3pm).

Boxers on the rise as they take to ring undefeated

A DOZEN undefeated boxers take to the ring for the Hatton Promotions, in association with Black Country Boxing, six-fight show at Walsall FC's Banks' Stadium tomorrow night (Friday).

'On The Rise', sponsored by Grosvenor Casino Walsall, will be headlined by Halesowen's Lennox Clarke, up against Lithuanian Vaidas Balciauskas.

Nantwich's Nathan Gorman warms up for his Central Area heavyweight title showdown with David Howe in Stoke in October with an eight rounder against Croatian Ivica Perkovic, a 42-year-old veteran of more than 50 fights.

Fellow Ricky Hatton-trained prospect Reuben Arrowsmith is also in action, while Tewkesbury middleweight Adam Harper fights outside of Gloucestershire for the first time as he steps in with Russian born Andrej Cepur.

Swadlincote super middleweight, Zach Parker faces tough Latvian Raimonds Sniedze. Completing the card is Navan super middleweight Chris Blaney, who has replaced Wolverhampton bantamweight Kyle Williams, a former Kickboxing World Champion.

Skipper anticipating a thrilling run-in

HALESOWEN skipper Richard Brooker says anything can happen in the final weeks of the season after Brooker's side had a frustrating Bank Holiday weekend.

Saturday's clash with Shifnal was washed out when they looked well set. They bowled their rivals out for 120 with Eddie Rhodes, Masharraf Shazad and Tom Wickstead in the wickets but their reply with the bat was cut short at 6-1 thanks to rain.

Then on Monday struggling Stratford knocked 273-6 and Halesowen were skittled out for 140 to lose by 133 runs.

Brooker said: "It wasn't really the Bank Holiday weekend we were looking for. With the weather on Saturday defeating us and then an unusually below par performance with the ball on Monday, it means the next few weeks are going to be tough.

"However, we play fourth placed Tamworth this weekend and with three games to go and the abrupt change round in points, now that all games are all win-lose, means anything can happen. It's going to be an exciting run-in."

The second team were also rained off on Saturday with Shifnal totalling 233-6 in the first

Cricket

innings and in reply Halesowen were 10-1 when the rain came.

But on Monday they gave themselves a glimmer of hope of surviving relegation with a resounding win against Brockhampton which moved them out of the relegation zone and closed the gap on the teams above.

Chasing 200 for victory the Seth Somers outfit, complete with six players under the age of 18, romped home by seven wickets and gave a glimpse of a bright future for the club.

Glassboys grab victory from the spot

Stourbridge 2 Barwell 1

STOURBRIDGE got their third win in a row after a thriller at Amblecote on Monday but were made to endure a nervy finish after a late penalty for the nine man visitors.

The Glassboys had the best of the first half, Kayelden Brown seeing his angled shot parried away by Barwell 'keeper Max Smith-Varnham and Chris Lait missing. It was Brown who got the breakthrough on 20 minutes when great work by Matt Dodd saw him cross low for Brown to score at the far post. Luke Benbow went just wide a minute later.

Barwell captain Eddie Nisevic was sent off for a second bookable offence on 76 minutes.

A great run by Brown down the left saw him square it to Benbow who scored from two yards out. Barwell's Brady Hickey saw a free kick saved by Matt Gould on 80 minutes. One minute later Story was brought down in the box by Lait and Hickey converted the penalty. There was still time for Nigel Julien to be sent off as the game ended stormily.

Nantwich 2 Stourbridge 3

Super-sub Brandon Hague was the hero when his stoppage-time strike secured the points for Gary Hackett's side in Cheshire.

The game appeared to be heading for a 2-2 draw when Nantwich sub Josh Hancock saw red for a reckless challenge on Leon Broadhurst with just a couple of minutes left. Hague took advantage lashing home a loose ball following Chris Lait's effort on goal.

Glassboys had gone ahead when defender Dan Scarr's attempt struck Nantwich player Curtis Jones to wrongfoot home 'keeper Dave Parton. Luke Parton doubled the score three minutes later.

But Nantwich came back with two goals late in the first half from Theo Stair and Ben Harrison,

Tyler is Wight choice to help the Heathens

CRADLEY look to get their play-off bid back on track when they face Stoke at Monmore Green on Tuesday.

The Heathens have suffered a bad spell but are still in with a chance of securing a top four spot, especially after Belle Vue slipped up at home last week.

They have two home meetings left at their adopted Wolverhampton track, against the Potters and Kent, and four away meetings including a trip to Kent on Monday.

Boss Will Pottinger has moved to plug the gap caused by James Purchase's injury by bringing former Heathen Tyler Govier back from the Isle of Wight.

★★★

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Thursday, September 1, 2016

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TOO LITTLE TOO LATE BY YELTZ

Halesowen Town 1 Hednesford 3
A COMFORTABLE Hednesford victory left Halesowen still seeking their first home win of the season.

Despite player suspensions, the Pitmen enjoyed much the better of the first period with Gurjit Singh and Simeon Maye going close with early efforts.

George Carline gave Hednesford the lead with a glancing header through a crowded goalmouth from a ninth minute corner. Ashley Sammons then twisted on the edge of the Yeltz area to curl just wide after 11 minutes.

Hednesford's Carline headed two further efforts just off the mark early in the second half but Tom Thorley could only guide a close range header over the bar.

Halesowen's late attempt to apply more forward pressure only allowed superior Hednesford to pick off the home defence with two further goals. Sammons latched onto substitute Danny Glover's flick and his low 74th minute drive escaped goalkeeper Dan Platt's grasp to double the lead.

The Pitmen finished strongly and Glover made it 3-0 just two minutes later when the ball was played to find Simeon Maye free on the right and he crossed for Glover to convert.

Goalkeeper Platt was forced to make a good save from Carline after 81 minutes and then kept out a 25-yard shot from substitute Sean Geddes.

Halesowen finally earned an 88th minute consolation goal through Kaiman Anderson's solo effort after he burst through to fire past the visiting 'keeper Dan Crane.

Rushall 1 Halesowen Town 0

Rushall Olympic were made to work hard to secure victory in a cut-and-thrust derby against Halesowen Town at a wet Dales Lane. The goal arrived on 34 minutes when a cross from Bilal Yafai found Aaron Forde.

There was a great reaction save from Jose Veiga in the Rushall goal on the quarter-hour mark when a powerful free-kick from Lee Chilton was deflected goalwards.

The visitors went close to levelling just past the hour when Chilton had a good chance which he dragged wide then Dumitru Chiriac also went close as his effort was cleared off the line.

Jordanne's goal is gold in Rio



Nine-time Grand Slam winner Jordanne Whiley will compete in singles and doubles in Rio

TENNIS ace Jordanne Whiley touched down in Rio for the Paralympic Games and stated her 'life goal' is to win gold.

The nine-time Grand Slam winner, who is from Halesowen, will compete in both the singles and women's double events in Brazil.

At London 2012, Whiley won her first Paralympic medal as she claimed bronze in the women's doubles alongside Lucy Shuker.

Title

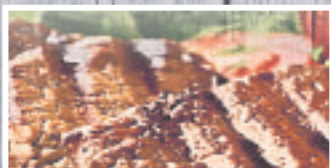
At Wimbledon earlier this year, the 24-year-old won her third consecutive doubles title with regular partner Yui Kamiji from Japan, but

was disappointed to exit the singles competition at the semi-final stage.

"My absolute life goal is to win a gold medal in Rio," Whiley said. "At Wimbledon, in the singles, I lost out in the semi-finals which was heartbreaking. I was there to win and believed I could win but I didn't feel I gave the performance I trained for."

"Now I need to use that loss as motivation. I want to come back with two gold medals."

Meanwhile, when Whiley returns from Rio she will be presented with an honorary degree by the University of Wolverhampton in recognition for her exceptional achievements in wheelchair tennis.



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Halesowen

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Open Days: Tuesday 20th , Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd September 2016 9.00am - 10.30am.

For more details please visit our website www.perryfieldshigh.sandwell.sch.uk



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Specialist Maths and Computing College

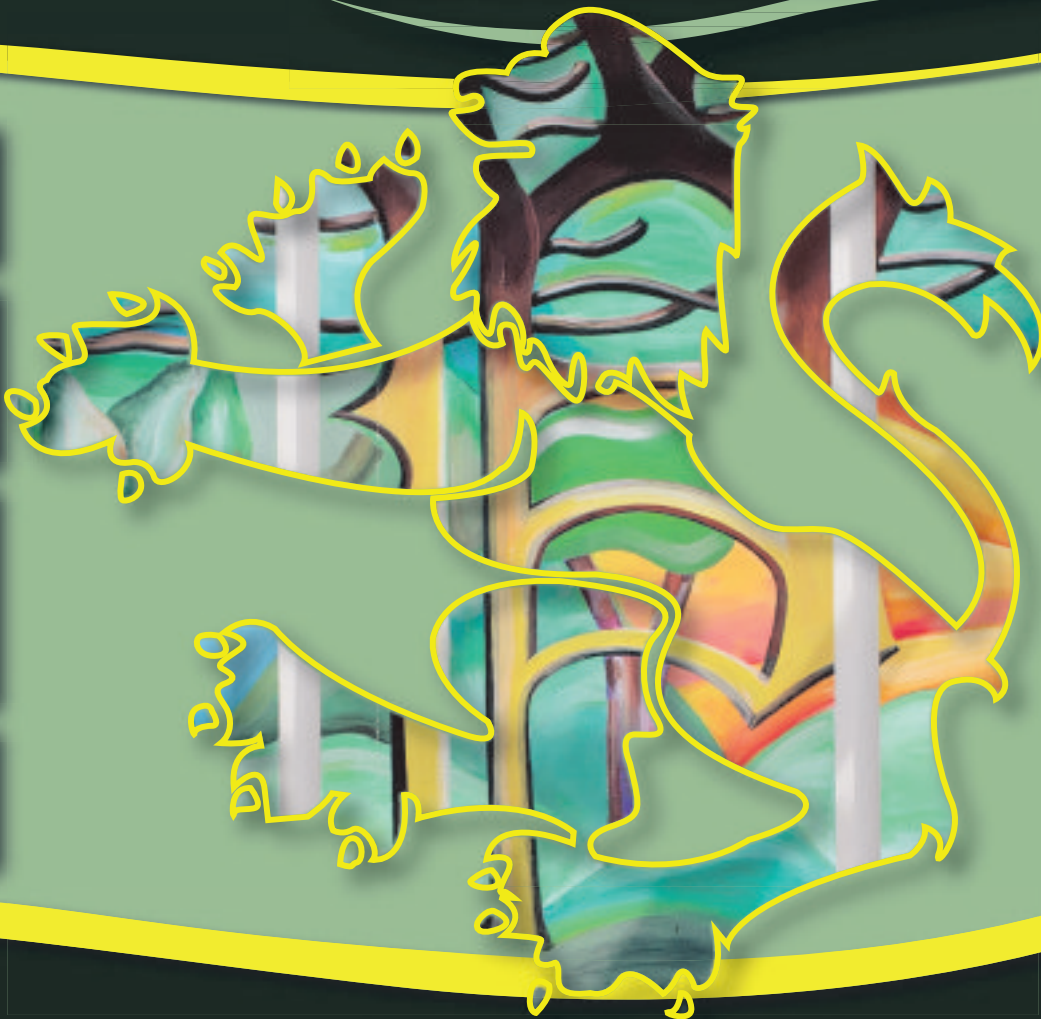
Together we achieve excellence

Congratulations to Perryfields pupils and staff for their continued hard work and academic achievements in 2016.

Once again Perryfields has secured an excellent set of GCSE and A Level results this year maintaining our strong academic performance over recent years.

The secondary Schools success is built on a foundation which includes good quality teaching, high standards of behaviour and excellent relationships between staff, pupils and parents.

Perryfields is oversubscribed again this year with full entry in all year groups and a rapidly developing sixth form.





Why choose Perryfields?

"Pupils attitude to learning
overwhelmingly

Inclusion

Our inclusion team at Perryfields ensure equality and opportunity for all. We have a large team of support staff who work hard to ensure Students with medical, social or emotional needs fulfill their potential.



Goojan sharing her experiences of being a young carer.

Caring for our Young Carers

"As a young carer, the School has helped me by creating a nurture group. We get chance to speak to other young carers. The nurture group has given me more confidence in myself and I don't feel as stressed as before. I feel like a new person".

Peer Mentors

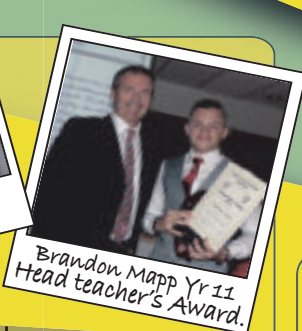
Goojan Kaur Yr8



Danny Barton Yr11 Overcoming Adversity



Eleanor Cole Yr11 Graham Newson Award.



Brandon Mapp Yr11 Head teacher's Award.

Celebrating Success

Perryfields hosts an annual awards ceremony at the West Bromwich Albion football club to celebrate excellence.



Year 8 DT lesson using the laser cutter to build butterflies.

Maths Futures Revision

"It is a great joy to watch a room full of pairs of pupils involved in conversations about Maths while supporting each other's learning".

Mr M Fentem, Head of Maths

Maths



"Fix-it time is helpful because we get feedback then time to correct our mistakes and learn from them". James Anderson Yr8

Geography Award

The Geography Department have recently been awarded the Secondary Geography Quality Mark from the Geographical Association.



"We are one of the few Schools in the Midlands with the award".

Promoting Literacy at Perryfields

Our Literacy Coordinators are, Alanah Mitchell, Jaikiran Dhani and Ellie Scott.

English



"We run creative writing competitions".



"Food here is way better than Primary. I look forward to it every day!". Akobi Folarin Yr9

Geography

Science



"I look forward to STEM club every week. We recently made a hovercraft". Joshua Citlurs Yr7

"The behaviour of pupils is good" Ofsted



Introducing our new Headteacher and Harjay

"Pupils feel very safe in school and parents agree" Ofsted

Together we achieve excellence

g is
y positive"
Ofsted



ally cool playing
een, even though it
day!" Oliver Piotrowski

A preference fit for the Queen

A group of our very talented students recently performed as part of Sandwell's Youth Brass Band for the Queen.

Duke of Edinburgh

At Perryfields we offer the opportunity to be involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award from Year 9. We regularly have up to 50 participants taking part at Bronze Level and Silver.



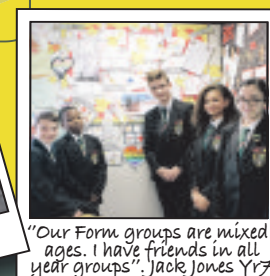
"D of E is really fun, we have to set-up our tents and cook our own food". Sam Tennant Yr10



"My reading age has increased since I started Perry's". Jessica Russell Yr7

The School promotes strong spiritual, moral and social values, including respect for people from different cultural backgrounds. Pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain.

Ofsted



"Our Form groups are mixed ages. I have friends in all year groups". Jack Jones Yr7

g
n online learning tool used
their reading ability. It has
building confidence and
s.



ur new Head Boy
rl, Tegan Lovett
y Bajwa...



"We have Rehearsals for cabaret at lunch". Aimee Fairbrother Yr8



"We have many Drama productions, Wiz of Oz was our last".

drama



Dance



...and our new deputies, James Russell, Adam Gailitis, Alanah Mitchell and Emma Chapman.



"I love expressing myself through dance". Isobel West Yr12



SHARP is an integrated system at Perryfields that is used by all staff to track behavior and celebrate success. Students can collect positive SHARP points for all aspects of Success. Challenges are often set and form groups compete to win prizes. Every term the forms with the highest amount of positive SHARP pints from each family are rewarded with a Movie screening, pizza and a day in non-School uniform. Every term there is also a prize draw for students who have not received any negative SHARP points to win a Samsung Galaxy tablet. Congratulations to our most recent SHARP winners, Matthew Jones, Sophie Blackwell, Declan Rhodes, Leah Sangha, Emily Matthews and Amrit Dulay.



"Perryfields sixth form is right for me, my love of creative arts is encouraged". Carian Bolton



"This is my Yr12 Art exam Final Piece". Carian, Yr12



Our SHARP Winners



"Competition drives students to want to succeed, working from live briefs also gives them industry experience". Mrs Woodhouse, Art teacher.

Art Success

The Art department won a national competition gaining a £1000 cash prize for their work celebrating diversity at Perryfields. More recently Sophia Pullen and Emma Chapman from Year 10 were successful in a local competition and had their artwork featured in a Sandwell calendar. They also received Kindles.



OPEN
EVENING
Thursday
15th Sep
7pm-9pm

What are our School leavers doing now?

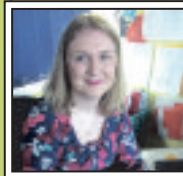
Our mission is to equip every student with the skills and knowledge they need to lead a successful and fulfilling life when they leave us. Many of our past pupils keep in touch, here is what a few are doing now...



Rhys Lovett

"Rhys always loved football, now he plays for Cheltenham Town".

"Perryfields gave me the confidence to pursue my dreams. I finish my teacher training this year and already have my first teaching job lined up for this September".



Elizabeth Darby



Niall Maher

"Niall played for Evesham under 16's, now he plays for Morecambe FC".

"I went on to be a P.E teacher after Perryfields; I now teach part time and am currently in the process of starting my own business".



Rebecca Peasley



Blood, Sweat and Paint

Our annual A Level Art exhibition, Blood, Sweat and Tears was brilliant this year and showcased some of our strongest work to date. Students organised and hosted the exhibition and all who attended were astonished at the large canvases produced. Guests included, A level students, GCSE students, Parents and lecturers from local universities.

Welcome to our New Year 7 2016

Perryfields would like to welcome our new Year 7. These photographs were taken during their taster days back in July. Whilst at Perryfields the students worked from a timetable to experience a day in the life of a secondary school student. The two days were hugely successful and left students feeling confident for their September start.



Budding Photographer

Some of the photography featured in this spread was taken by one of our Art GCSE students, Bethany Parkes. She worked closely with a professional photographer for a whole day and captured some great shots. Thanks Beth!



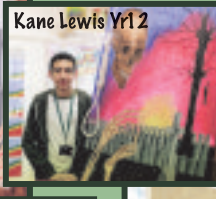
Hannah Warren Yr12



Harriet Hadley Yr12



Isobelle Foy Yr12



Kane Lewis Yr12



Josie Lynch Yr13



Isobel West Yr12



Kaitia Samuels Yr12



Experimenting with photo manipulation in ICT



Science



Dance trip New York



Biannual USA Tour 2016

"Visiting America with Perryfields was amazing, vast experiences ranged from the baking heat of Death Valley to the blinding lights of Vegas. I made new friends, tasted new food and saw some beautiful sights. It was a trip of a lifetime!"
James Anderson, Yr8.

"Yosemite was awesome, the views and waterfall were amazing"
Connor-James Harvey, Yr8

"Flying over the Canyon in a helicopter was a sight of beauty".
Anthony Andreou, Yr8

"I made loads of new friends at Plas, we helped each other on activities and learning about the environment."
Year 9 Student.



Year 8 Geography Trip Amersham



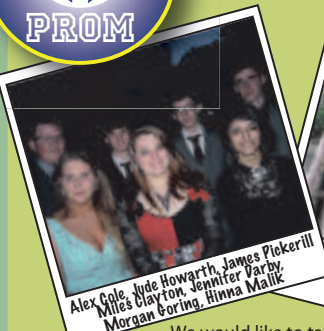
Annual Year 9 Trip Outdoor Adventures, Plas Gwynant



History Trip Berlin



Once again our Year 11 prom was a success and all who attended had a fabulous evening. Both our young ladies and gentlemen dressed to impress in order to celebrate their achievements in style.



Alex Cole, Jude Howarth, James Pickerill, Miles Clayton, Jennifer Darby, Morgan Goring, Hina Malik



Amanpreet Bains, Kathryn Bruce, and Emily King

We would like to take this opportunity to wish them the best of luck with their future endeavours!

OPEN EVENING
15th Sep
7pm-9pm